

Yugoslav army is mad, says Genscher

West may give rebel republics recognition

By GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE European Community is to hold an emergency meeting tomorrow to consider recognising the breakaway Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia after the collapse of two ceasefires.

Europe and America are also considering banning arms sales to Yugoslavia and suspending aid. Britain yesterday revoked export licences for goods destined for the country, halting trade in military and high-technology equipment.

The moves came after columns of tanks surged towards Slovenia from Croatia and Belgrade, and there were further clashes between federal and nationalist forces in Slovenia. The Slovene information minister, Jelko Kacin, claimed that federal troops had been given orders for an attack early today, but the army said it would not fire unless fired upon.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister who is also chairman of the Conference on Security and

Co-operation in Europe's new crisis committee, said yesterday that the Yugoslav military authorities should expect the "sharpest political reactions" if troops were not sent back to their barracks immediately. He said the federal army had gone mad. It was running amok and he questioned whether it could be restrained.

Italy joined the condemnation, with its foreign minister, Gianni De Michelis, saying that unless the army respected a ceasefire, Italy was prepared to "act in solidarity" with Croatia and Slovenia. Switzerland and The Netherlands have also signalled their support for self-determination and Austria is openly sympathetic towards the republic.

Douglas Hurd conceded in the Commons that it may no longer be possible to hold Yugoslavia together. "The old system is in an advanced state of decay and cannot survive," he said after talks with Yugoslav officials. British officials said later that recognition was not imminent, but was being considered seriously. The State Department in Washington has also indicated that it might recognise the republics if their independence were achieved peacefully.

The contemplation of recognition represents a shift of policy on both sides of the Atlantic. Both Europe and America had a week ago expressed their determination to keep Yugoslavia united and insisted that they would not deal with any seceding republic. That stance led to some commentators accusing the Community of helping to start the fighting by encouraging the federal army to believe that it had international backing for an attempt to keep the country together by force.

The search for a peaceful solution continued at a meeting of the CSCE crisis committee in Prague yesterday, when the Czech president, Vaclav Havel, added his voice

to those who believe the army is running out of control. The committee later issued a statement saying: "All fighting has to stop immediately."

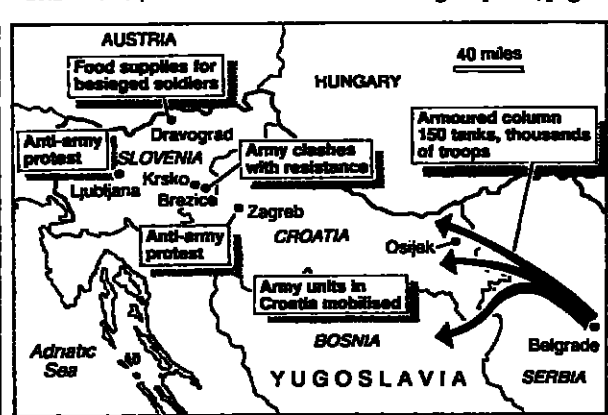
Some European states have called for intervention by the UN, but the secretary general, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, has ruled out any role for the body yet, saying it would duplicate European peace efforts.

As three EC foreign ministers visited Belgrade again to work out arrangements for the monitoring of a ceasefire, a Yugoslav army general promised that his troops would fire only if attacked by nationalists. General Andrija Raseta, deputy commander of the federal forces in Slovenia, insisted that the army was under political control and dismissed rumours of a military coup. It was not clear whether he was responding to the unilateral ceasefire announced by the republic's leaders late on Tuesday night after talks with the federal president, Stipe Mesic.

Mr Kacin, the information minister, said that a three-man Slovene delegation had met defence ministry officials and representatives of the 5th army district, which covers the republic, to organise the federal soldiers' return to barracks. But he also claimed that a "brutal" order telling the Yugoslav army to prepare for action early today had been circulated to senior officers.

Yesterday, a column of 150 tanks and thousands of troops headed north from Belgrade, splitting into three prongs. One thrust into Croatian territory near Osijek, close to the Hungarian border, and a third went further south through Bosnia. All were thought to have stopped by the border. Three other columns had left bases in Croatia and moved towards Slovenia on Tuesday, although there were no reports of their movements yesterday.

Manoeuvring for peace, page 8



Lords sentencing revolt

By JOHN WINDER

THE House of Lords last night put itself on course for a confrontation with the Commons over mandatory life sentences for murder. After deciding not to insist on allowing judges to set fixed-term sentences for murder, peers inflicted a series of defeats on the government, upstaging a compromise over the review of life sentences.

By 134 votes to 83 they passed an amendment to the criminal justice bill, which

means that mandatory life sentences for murder are included in the parole board review procedure, as well as those sentences passed for other offences such as manslaughter and rape.

The changes from the upper chamber will be resisted by the government, and ministers will ask the Commons to reinstate its proposals.

Killer sentenced, page 3
Peers' revolt, page 7

Greece turns to EC to regain Elgin Marbles

From TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

GREECE is planning to use draft proposals now being canvassed by the European Commission to succeed where Melina Mercouri failed and wrest the Elgin Marbles from the British Museum.

The proposed new rules, on the placing of European cultural artefacts "in their proper context" were intended to safeguard national treasures in the post 1992 border-free Europe. But some countries, Greece included, want them to be retrospective. Behind the row lies a long-standing squabble, now coming to a head, over how to reconcile a free exchange in works of art across frontiers, and the desire of EC states to safeguard their "national treasures".

The British view is that only a very limited number of works "of considerable value" need be defined as

nationally important and subject to export licences. Some Mediterranean countries, by contrast, regard as "treasure" almost everything they possess which is more than fifty years old. "On top of that, they now want to use the EC to get their hands on objects like the Marbles," one British official said. He dismissed the idea as nonsense.

One version of the proposals already circulating in Brussels refers to the need for "restitution of cultural objects illegally exported to other EC member states".

One British official retorted: "The fact that the Elgin Marbles are in the British Museum makes them part of our cultural heritage. Lord Elgin did nothing illegal anyway."

Greek officials insisted Britain would have to face up to "misadventures carried out in the name of archaeology". The Earl of Elgin removed the Marbles

at the beginning of the nineteenth century, ostensibly to protect them, and sold them to the British Museum fifteen years later.

The Greek campaign began in earnest in 1983 when Ms Mercouri, the volatile Greek actress, became socialist minister of culture. In eight years in the post she failed to get the frieze to Athens. But three months ago, with Ms Mercouri still heading the campaign, Greece unveiled plans for a new Acropolis museum in Athens, to hold the ancient frieze, which once covered the outside of the Parthenon. The British Museum insists that "except for duplicates we are not allowed to dispose of items in our collection". Ms Mercouri meanwhile says the new rules would not only benefit Greece but would also enable Italy to "intervene to prevent a Canaletto being sold from a Spanish collection to, say, a gallery in Japan".



Mercouri: still trying to get back Elgin's trophies



Navratilova: "It gets more difficult as you get older"

Capriati topples Martina

By JOHN GOODBODY SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

JENNIFER Capriati, aged only 15, beat fellow-American Martina Navratilova, the world's most successful woman player, 6-4, 7-5 in the quarter-finals of the Wimbledon championships yesterday. "Martina has had her day. She has won the title nine times but there is a new generation coming up," said Miss Capriati, who faces Gabriela Sabatini, of Argentina, in the semi-final today.

Miss Navratilova, aged 34 and the No.3 seed, said afterwards that young players did not know about pressure. "When you get older you get more nervous. It should get easier but all the other players say the same thing: it gets more difficult."

The International Tennis Federation yesterday levied a fine of \$10,000 (£5,250) on John McEnroe for "flagrant verbal abuse" of a linesman in his match against Stefan Edberg.

Reports, pages 39, 40



Capriati: "Navratilova has had her day, a new generation is coming up"

Major returns to exam room

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

JOHN Major yesterday took on the educational establishment when he assumed control of the government's campaign to raise standards in the examinations they take. If the transition from GCSE to A levels is causing difficulties, we must level GCSE up, not lower A level.

The new national curriculum tests are likely to be based on what children at seven and 11 could reasonably be expected to learn. The average score would be set at 100 so that parents would know whether their children were realising their potential and could assess how they compared with others in the class. Testing for 14-year-olds would include technology and a foreign language.

"I have never yet come across parents who did not want to know how their children are doing at school, both in relation to their own progress and to the progress of others."

The GCSE will be reformed to make it more like the GCE O level it replaced three years ago. Mr Major said that in most subjects he believed that only 20 per cent of the marks should be given for course work, compared with 100 per cent in some of the original papers.

"It is clear that there is now far too much course work, project work and teacher assessment. The remedy surely lies in getting GCSE back to being an externally assessed examination," he told a London meeting of the Centre of Policy Studies, the right-

Talks on future of Ulster fail

By RICHARD FORD AND EDWARD GORMAN

THE latest in a long line of British initiatives to break the political deadlock in Northern Ireland collapsed yesterday.

Although Peter Brooke insisted that there was a good prospect for future discussions, the likelihood of talks restarting before the general election is remote.

Mr Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, ended the process when it became clear that it would be impossible to make further progress in the remaining time set aside for the negotiations.

His initiative began to break down when six weeks of procedural wrangling reduced to four weeks the time set aside for the completion of three strands of talks on the future of the province, its links with the Irish Republic and relations between Dublin and London.

Mr Brooke spent 15 months cajoling the parties to the conference table but the talks ended after only eight days of discussions between Unionists and nationalist politicians.

Diary, page 18
Letters, page 19

OECD predicts recovery

THE half-yearly report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on the UK confirms the government's view that the economy will begin to recover in the second half of the year.

The Paris think-tank, however, foresees a minimal return to economic growth this year. It forecasts growth

equivalent to an annual rate of 0.3 per cent, compared with the Treasury forecast of 1.8 per cent in the second half. According to the think-tank's forecast, Britain will be at the bottom of the growth table for leading industrial nations.

Business, page 24
Comment, page 27

'Soft' BMA chief may be ousted

Doctors believe that their chairman is wrong to sugar the pill of revolt against the government, reports Jill Sherman

THE chairman of the British Medical Association is expected to come under heavy criticism at a meeting of the 60-strong council this afternoon and may face a vote of no confidence from his colleagues.

If the unprecedented vote is carried, Jeremy Lee-Potter, who has already faced resignation calls this week, will have little alternative but to stand down, sources said yesterday.

Several council members are ready to back an alternative candidate, Sir Anthony Grahame, a former council chairman who has said he is willing to stand.

Dr Lee-Potter has been in trouble with the upper echelons of the BMA since he took over from the combative John Marks last July. He has been criticised at the past two council meetings for his soft, softly style of leadership, which colleagues feel is inappropriate in the run-up to a general election.

Earlier this week, at the association's annual representative meeting in Inverness, council members publicly chided their chairman for his conciliatory approach and one called for his resignation.

Although Dr Lee-Potter faced a rough ride from the 600 representatives on Monday after a lacklustre speech calling for closer relations with the government, council members did not rally in support. One after the other conspicuously called for a tougher approach and a clear lead from the top.

Council members argue that Dr Lee-Potter is conveying a muddled message and many fear that the association has lost its way in its campaign of opposition to the NHS changes. Dr John Marks presided over a £4 million campaign which included extensive leafletting, newspaper advertising and posters. Although

Continued on page 24, col 2

Bali doctors, page 15

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

CAUGHT IN THE ACT

Kim Basinger stars in *Too Hot To Handle*, smuggled into cinemas when they thought no one was looking. But Geoff Brown was Page 17

KING AND COUNTRY

Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia is among the European royals offering themselves as symbols of unity in troubled times Page 18

FLYING DOCTORS

Peter Griffiths drew fire when he attacked jet-setting doctors, so what are British medics up to in foreign fields? Page 15

INSIDE NEWS

Declining income from passengers and property sales sent British Rail into the red for the first time in three years. Sir Bob Reid, the chairman, said yesterday. There was an operating loss of £42.4 million for 1990-1, compared with £26.4 million the previous year. Page 2
Leading article, page 19

Double murderer jailed

Michael Shorey, who tried to arrange a bogus alibi with the former television actress Sandy Ratcliff to cover up the murder of the two women with whom he was living, was jailed for life. Page 3

Ford slashes prices

Ford yesterday cut the prices of its cars by up to £2,000 for three months to try to stave off the industry's worst year since 1982. Page 5

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12 pages of top jobs in today's appointments section

Hopes of Ulster may have to wait for a new generation



Brooke optimistic but misleading analysis

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PETER Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, did his best in the House of Commons yesterday to portray the breakdown of his initiative on the political future of Northern Ireland in a positive manner.

He even suggested that the talks had come to a conclusion, not through any irreconcilable differences between the parties involved but because the process was running out of time. It had foundered on a procedural obstacle.

Mr Brooke suggested that at a later date, possibly before the end of this year, he might be able to make fresh approaches to the party lead-

ers in an attempt to build on the foundations laid so far.

Naturally he did not want to emphasise an element of failure, particularly because he did not wish to contribute to an atmosphere of re-examination which might harm future prospects.

However, his analysis is misleading. While there may have been positive moments in discussions in recent weeks, the overriding characteristic of the initiative for 17 months has been suspicion and distrust between the parties and, except for short periods, a general lack of goodwill.

Some would argue that the common ground described by Mr Brooke in his opening speech in January last year does not yet exist. The prospects for the immedi-

ate future do not look good. With the approaching general election, time is short for Mr Brooke and it may require a change of secretary of state before another attempt can be made to get the parties round the table. It could be that progress will not come until the present generation of political leaders in the province and in Dublin have been replaced by younger individuals, though it is far from certain that they will act in a more flexible manner than their predecessors.

The central malaise dictating the failure of this initiative is the age-old dispute between nationalists and Unionists over the sovereignty of Northern Ireland, which has frustrated efforts by previous governments. This time the battle ground

was the Anglo-Irish agreement, although power sharing might eventually have superseded it. It is easy to blame the Unionists for the squabbling which bedevilled the process, yet often their case was reasonable, though perhaps not elegantly put. In general, Mr Brooke seemed to prefer to make agreements first with Dublin, and thus with the SDLP, before putting them to the Unionists for approval, which naturally left Ian Paisley and Jim Molyneux feeling outnumbered three to two.

It is hard to judge with certainty, but it does appear that the failure of the initiative will further weaken the Unionist position in future negotiations. Barring an unexpected reversal of policy back to a purely

integrationist approach to Northern Ireland, future governments are likely to be even more wary of Unionist intransigence and look to increasing cooperation with Dublin, perhaps eventually in a new Anglo-Irish agreement.

The Brooke process could never bring peace and never set out to do so. But it was hoped that by bringing moderate nationalists and Unionists together, the marginalisation of those who support and prosecute violence would increase to the point that eventually they might give up.

That prospect is now tragically delayed.

Initiative collapses, page 1
Leading article, page 19

Portillo admits surcharge is unfair

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Portillo, the local government minister, yesterday described poll tax surcharges of up to £158 as unfair but said councils must use the law to enforce them.

He was speaking as the environment department published figures showing the surcharges, imposed to cover losses caused by widespread non-payment of the tax, were running at twice the level originally estimated. According to the figures, 20 councils have imposed surcharges of more than £50, including Labour-controlled Lambeth, which has the highest at £158 a head to make up for the fact that less than half the population paid.

Mr Portillo said: "I certainly think that these supplements are unfair, but the unfairness lies in the refusal of some people to pay their share of the cost of local services. We expect local authorities to collect all the community charge they are due and we expect them to use the full process of the law to enforce that."

He said the community charge was unique among taxes in that people were able to see on their bills the amount they were having to pay to cover evasion. "When you pay your income tax you are paying more than you would otherwise need to because other people are not paying. The same is true of the television licence. Supermarkets charge more to cover losses due to shoplifting."

The latest list of councils levying high surcharges are dominated by Labour local authorities. David Blunkett, the party's local government spokesman said that the government was to blame. "These figures reflect the impossibility of collecting the poll tax in inner urban areas with large shifting populations. Councils have made huge efforts to collect this uncollectable tax."

Motorway limit

The motorway speed limit is to remain at 70mph, but the government may allow councils to impose a 20mph limit on some roads near schools to try to reduce the number of children hurt in accidents, Mr Robert Riddick, the transport secretary, said yesterday. He said that a transport department review of speed limits had concluded that increasing the motorway limit would lead to more casualties.

Orkney plea

The judge leading the preliminary hearing into the removal of nine children from families on the Orkney Islands amid allegations of ritual abuse, said yesterday that they should not have to give evidence. Lord Clyde asked the parents to consider letting the children talk to a psychologist who would give evidence.

Pollution alert

The National Rivers Authority issued a warning last night that the Wheal Jane tin mine near Truro, abandoned earlier this year, is flooding with water containing dangerous levels of arsenic and heavy metals such as cadmium and lead, and may pollute the drinking water of local people depending on wells or springs.

UDA man jailed

A leading Ulster Defence Association figure was jailed for seven years by Belfast crown court yesterday for making threats to kill. A letter containing death threats written by Tommy Lytle, aged 52, of west Belfast, was sent to witnesses due to give evidence in another trial involving alleged UDA racketeering.

Recession plunges British Rail back into the red

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

DECLINING income from passengers and property sales sent British Rail back into the red for the first time in three years. Sir Bob Reid, the British Rail chairman, said yesterday.

Announcing the annual results, Sir Bob said that the railways recorded an operating loss of £42.4 million for 1990-1, compared with £26.4 million the previous year. Group losses were, however, reduced to £10.4 million after excluding interest payments and including income from property sales.

The annual results include £27 million spent on Channel tunnel start-up costs, including the international station at Waterloo and the upgrading of London-Folkestone lines. Recession and the collapse of the property market led to a fall in income from property

sales and lettings to £223 million from £412 million the previous year.

Government support rose by 20 per cent to £601.5 million, while investment increased to £834 million, up 17 per cent from the previous year. Spending on safety projects as required by the Hidden report into the Clapham rail crash increased to £140 million, and is expected to continue to increase.

InterCity, the national passenger network, achieved an operating surplus of £49.7 million, keeping it in profit for the third year running. Growth in business travel up to the autumn of 1990 was followed by a sharp decline in demand, however, and an upturn is unlikely until the recession ends.

Network SouthEast, the London and regional network,

registered a turnover of nearly £1 billion, despite the impact of recession on passenger income and the disruption caused by severe winter weather. Government support was increased to £142.7 million, and the 1992-93 target for the abolition of public subsidy is now effectively abandoned.

Investment in Network SouthEast is continuing at £1 million a day, which is being focused on improving standards and reliability on a few routes at a time, such as the recent upgrading of the Thames and Chiltern line. Upgrades of the Kent Link, Kent Coast, and London, Tilbury and Southend lines are planned.

Regional Railways, which runs urban and rural services outside Network SouthEast, received £428 million in subsidy to run loss-making services, excluding an additional £101 million from the regional transport authorities. Because of declining demand, there was some reduction in regional services, but overall train miles remained as high as ten years ago.

Railfreight had a disappointing year, registering an operating loss of £53.6 million after four years of profit, because of a 3 per cent decline in business. The opening of the Channel tunnel should improve prospects for international business.

Defending the results, Sir Bob said that the railways "had performed well in difficult economic and operational circumstances". He said he had no intention of increasing fares to compensate for the railways' losses, although he would pursue the government for the extra £340 million needed to finance this year's investment programme.

Leading article, page 19

All eyes on today's voting in Walton

By RONALD FAUX

WALTON, the shabby, bustling wedge of north Liverpool, today elects a new MP and settles two questions of importance far beyond the by-election campaign. Has the Militant Tendency been crushed, as Labour says, and will the many undecided voters indicated by the latest opinion poll confirm expectations and add to the string of Liberal Democrat sensations?

On the last full day of campaigning yesterday, Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, supporting Peter Kilfoyle, had no doubts about the demise of Militant, which backs Lesley Mahmood, the Real Labour candidate. He said: "For years, we have argued that Militant was a separate and alien political organisation, a parasite which lived off Labour's popularity. This election has proved that Militant is the enemy of Labour, no different from the Tories and Liberals in its opposition to democratic socialism."

Militant in its true colours, he said, had negligible support. Lesley Mahmood, however, claimed to have won the support of thousands in Walton, unlike the "old and boring men in grey suits who travel round Walton on a bus claiming they are the Labour party's future". Real Labour, she declared, would get Labour back on the right track.

The Tories also claimed to be the true slayers of Militant. Chris Patten, Conservative party chairman, said that the Liverpool Labour party contained scores of Lesley Mahmoods. "It's not Labour, but this government which has weakened the Militant Tendency," he said. The bully-boy tactics of Militant's union allies and the "jobs-for-the-boys" council services racket had been outlawed in spite of opposition from Labour.

The latest opinion poll,

showing Real Labour crushed and 30 per cent of voters undecided, cheered the Liberal Democrats. Paul Clark, the candidate, said: "People now realise that Militant are out of the contest and that there is no chance of a vote for us letting them in by the back door."

Winning a political stronghold against expectations would not be a new experience for the Liberal Democrats, who polled 40 per cent of Walton votes in the last local elections. Sir Trevor Jones, former Liberal council leader, forecast a shock for Labour. The voters, he said, were about to take their revenge.

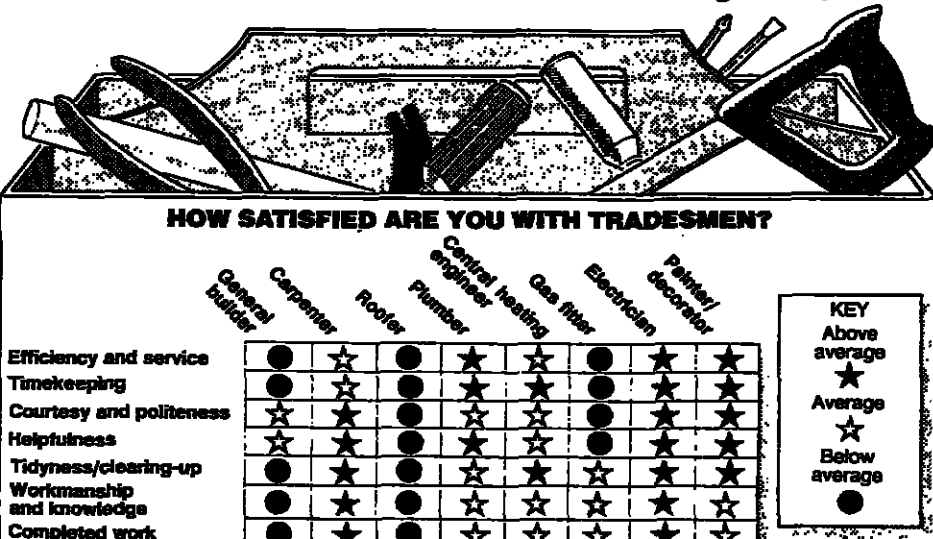
One in five tradesmen does bad job, survey finds

By PETER VICTOR

TRADE associations representing home repair and maintenance workmen offer little guarantee that work will be done to a higher standard, a Consumers' Association report says.

The association suggests that trade associations' quality control schemes might need strengthening after a survey of 5,839 of its members found that of four big trade associations only people who hired members of the Institute of Plumbing were more likely to be satisfied with their time-keeping, efficiency, workmanship and completed work compared to those who hired non-members.

According to the association, in 90 per cent of the cases surveyed members were satisfied and the same proportion said they would be happy to recommend the workman. This was borne out by the fact that 70 per cent of those surveyed hired someone they had used before or had been



Trades gap: electricians and decorators rate highly in the satisfaction stakes. The same can not be said of roofers, gas fitters or builders, although builders were polite

recommended to them. However, one in five workmen were asked to sort out problems after the work was supposedly completed. Eight out of ten returned willingly but

the Consumers' Association says.

Such repellents are not covered by the same statutory controls as other repellents because they are classified as cosmetics, the association says in a report. They do not have to be approved for safety or display safety information on labels. The association recommends that all repellents be covered by the control of pesticides regulations, requiring them to be tested for toxicity and approved.

Monitoring gadgets which claim to improve safety and security can be a waste of time, the report says. One device designed to alleviate seat belt tension is easy to use incorrectly with potentially disastrous results, the association says.

Other gadgets included a hot wash for windcreens with a water temperature little higher than ordinary washer water, and an expensive battery teddy car alarm not as good as a conventional alarm.

Press tells Delors to steer clear

From MELINDA WITSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT, IN LUXEMBOURG

BRITISH newspaper proprietors yesterday told Jacques Delors, the European commission president, to keep out of their business and drop any plans to introduce European Community-wide statutory regulation of the press.

The warning, supported by many continental publishing companies, came after M Delors told delegates at a consultative congress on the press in Luxembourg that there must be "one set of minimum

rules for the game", the specifics of which could best be worked out at "Community level".

Sir Frank Rogers, chairman of the European Publishers Council and deputy chairman of the *Daily Telegraph*, said that harmonisation of press regulation and practice across Europe could only lead to the adoption of each country's toughest restrictions, ending Britain's centuries-old tradition of self-regulation and

threatening the freedom and financial viability of the press.

Gaston Thorn, M Delors's predecessor and now president of CLT, the Luxembourg media group, also warned the commission to "stay away from the press".

The congress was plunged into disarray with delegates unable to reach consensus, or agreements on translations, on many proposals from working groups meant to report to the commission.

Church is stuffy report says

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A PREVAILING image of the Church of England as a stuffy, middle-class institution which fails to reach the working classes is portrayed in a report published today.

The report, to be debated at general synod in York, says such cultural factors must be taken into account when Christians attempt to promote the Gospel. To the outsider, people in church "appear to think in a funny way", the report says.

The regular use of ideas which do not appear to be rooted in everyday experience makes them appear not merely odd but largely irrelevant. Evangelism is imprudent in a special, cultic language and even some modern hymns contain endlessly recycled old religious phrases.

"New arrivals at church are asked to do things which can seem very strange to them. They are also very often asked not to do things which seem quite normal to those outside the fellowship," according to the report, *Good News in our Times*. The church has produced its own form of ecclesiastical culture, and only those who have known some form of this culture are likely to rejoin, the report by the church's mission theological advisory group says.

The alien nature of the church and the perceived superiority of its members have erected an immense barrier before deprived people.

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BETWEEN 2-5 PM
(SUBJECT TO LOCAL VARIATION)

Bodies in the car killer imprisoned for life

By MICHAEL HORNSNELL

MICHAEL Shorey, who tried to arrange a bogus alibi with the former television actress Sandy Ratcliff to cover up the murder of the two women with whom he was living, was jailed for life by the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Shorey, aged 35, an accounts clerk from north London, was found guilty of the murder of his former girlfriend Elaine Forsyth and her friend Patricia Morrison, whose bodies he dumped in a car and abandoned.

Mr Justice Wright told him: "It must be a matter of speculation as to what led you to commit these two appalling crimes."

The prosecution alleged that Shorey strangled Miss Forsyth, aged 31, at the basement flat they shared in Holloway, July 21, last year and then similarly murdered Miss Morrison, aged 28, when she returned and discovered what he had done.

Shorey put the bodies into Miss Morrison's car early on the Monday after spending Sunday with Miss Ratcliff. He drove them, propped up as though alive, through rush-hour traffic before abandoning the car in a road near by.

Sandy Ratcliff, a former *EastEnders* actress, told the court that she and Shorey were in bed together on the night of



Shorey, jailed in 1976 for cruelty to a child

the killings. She recounted her whirlwind "heartwave romance" with Shorey and said she became infatuated with him. However, under cross-examination she admitted having been jailed for a drug offence and becoming "muddled" in her evidence.

After the verdicts Det Supt Geoffrey Farran, who retired during the course of the three-week trial, said that Shorey was jailed in July 1976 for grievous bodily harm and cruelty to a child aged nine months. He had immersed the child's feet in extremely hot water while looking after him, Mr Farran said.

The court was told that Gary McRae, a friend of Shorey, had gone to the police after being asked to look after a bloodstained carpet from the flat. The heels of Shorey's trainers were also marked with drops of his victims' blood which fell as he carried them, over his shoulder, up the basement steps to the car.

The court was also told that there had been a dispute between Miss Forsyth and Shorey over the ending of their relationship and that Shorey had subsequently begun a romance with Miss Ratcliff. Prosecution witnesses included a prisoner who shared a cell with Shorey when he was on remand. He said that Shorey told him he had killed the two women.

However, Shorey told police that his last contact with the two women was when they left for a pop concert at Wembley stadium on the Saturday evening and that he spent the evening and next day with Miss Ratcliff.

Peter Forsyth, father of Elaine, said afterwards: "We accept the sentence for what it is and under the circumstances it is the best we can get. But under no circumstances would I accept that jail is adequate for these cruel murders."



Down to earth with a bump: the once mighty Queen Elizabeth Oak, which may now face the indignity of being sawn into souvenir-sized chunks

'Clowes millions laundered'

By PAUL WILKINSON

DETAILS of how the Barlow Clowes four allegedly laundered millions of pounds of their clients' money to provide a luxurious lifestyle for themselves were given to a Central Criminal Court jury yesterday.

Evidence on how £49 million was stolen would be given during the trial, said Alan Suckling, QC, prosecuting for the serious fraud office, but that did not represent all that was missing from investors' funds with the Barlow Clowes group.

"They laundered the money in the criminal sense, by pushing it through various accounts to try, at the end of the day, to turn it white, to disguise the fact of where it came from," he said.

Mr Suckling said the four accused bought small offshore companies, open a bank account in their names and moved cash through them

into "an account that benefited them". Another ruse was to use a "back-to-back" arrangement with a bank which involved obtaining an off-the-shelf offshore company, opening an account in its name and crediting it with money from clients' funds, he said. Another account would then be opened in the bank and money borrowed on it, using funds in the first account as security.

Peter Clowes, aged 50, and three executives of companies in the Barlow Clowes group face charges alleging conspiracy, theft, and making false statements to induce clients to enter investment schemes. Mr Clowes's co-defendants are Peter Naylor, aged 35, of Sand, Surrey, Guy von Cramer, aged 29, of Micklethwaite, West Yorkshire, and Christopher Newman, aged 37, of Poole, Dorset.

Mr Suckling said that the

Rothschilds bank in Manchester was used to launder investors' money through a "back-to-back" arrangement. There would be evidence that in February 1986, £2.75 million of clients' money was laundered through an account opened there.

In April a sum of £750,000 was laundered with £500,000 of it ending up in Mr Clowes's personal account and the rest going to Naylor, Mr Suckling alleged.

More than £600,000 of clients' money was used to buy a French chateau and vineyard and another £9,000 went on running costs, Mr Suckling said. The investment failed, however, with losses of £61,000 by June 1986. Mr Clowes bought an £80,000 Porsche, a Bentley Turbo and two cars for his stepson and put cash into a high interest account.

The case continues today.

Lizzie's Oak falls to wet June and ivy

By ALAN HAMILTON

AFTER 700 years of shragging off all the English climate could throw at it, one of the nation's most historic trees - Lizzie's Oak - has been felled by the recent torrential rain.

Queen Elizabeth's oak in Greenwich Park, southeast London, toppled over on Tuesday night, and yesterday lay forlornly awaiting the attentions of a chainsaw.

The weight of celebrations for the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's birth at Greenwich apparently had nothing to do with the tree's death.

The environment department said that the tree was beyond restoration and might be sawn into souvenir chunks or, if not rotten, turned into furniture. A replacement oak would probably be planted.

Royal trees, even stout oaks, have not on the whole fared well. Twelve years ago the stump of Elizabeth's other oak, under which she is said to have been sitting at Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, when she heard the news of her accession, was uprooted and placed inside the house to ensure its preservation. The oak at Boscombe, Shropshire, in which Charles II hid from pursuing roundheads, was chopped into souvenir lumps by jubilant royalists immediately after his restoration.

But that royal oak's children survived, and not only in the name of countless public houses. A tree grown from an acorn of the original still stands, noble and healthy within its protective fence. Elizabeth's oak, like the queen herself, appears sadly to have been childless.

Last year's gales dealt the oak a fatal blow by damaging its roots, and the park keepers were about to begin work on stabilising it. But too late, a very wet June, combined with the great weight of ivy, dealt

Before the fall, leafless but upright

Indeed, it died well over a century ago, but the vast 20-foot high stump clad in an immense growth of ivy remained a familiar landmark, its trunk protected from initial carvers and incontinent dogs by a stout iron fence.

He added: "Somebody went for a road test in it and had bad clutch trouble. He could not get in or out of the gears, all of which is quite disgraceful that they could not make it roadworthy for just going round the houses."

Mr Villiers said that he had hoped to have the car driven at high speed, "possibly 140 miles an hour", to prove that it was the fastest Rolls-Royce in existence.

"People all over the world would have wanted to buy it for a very high price, because it would have been the extremely valuable result of a historic collaboration between Rolls-Royce and myself. Collectors would have given their eyes for such a magnificent machine."

The case continues today.

the coup de grace. Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, who married at the king's palace of Greenwich, are said to have danced beneath its shade, and their daughter the first Elizabeth to have played within its mighty trunk, which even by then was hollow. In later years, with a door installed in its side, it found humble purpose as a cell in which offenders against park regulations were locked.

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The case continues today.

Long-divorced wife wins ruling

A WOMAN aged 70 who divorced her husband 21 years ago, yesterday won the right to take him back to court to ask for higher maintenance payments and a cash lump sum in the light of his new-found prosperity.

The decision by the Court of Appeal will be seen as casting doubt on the "clean break" principle in divorce and could result in many people facing renewed financial claims long after they thought such matters were over. The woman in yesterday's case, Helen Twi-

name, of Moseley, Birmingham, married Alec TwiNAME in 1940. They parted in 1961 and Mrs TwiNAME was granted an uncontested divorce in 1970.

A year earlier, Mr TwiNAME had agreed to pay £884 a year maintenance pending divorce, and this was continued after divorce until 1977 when it was increased to £3,900. After he had retired and sold his building business for £6 million, Mrs TwiNAME returned to court seeking a lump sum payment and increased per-

iodical payments. She was said to be living in bed and breakfast accommodation and to owe money to her bank.

Yesterday, Lords Justices Purchas and Glidewell backed a divorce registrar and a county court judge who had rejected moves by Mr TwiNAME, 73, of Workington, Cumbria, to have his ex-wife's application dismissed on the ground that she was guilty of inexcusable and inordinate delay in making it and that, after so many years, it was an "abuse" of the court process.

Ruling that Mrs TwiNAME still had the right, 21 years on, to take her husband back to court and ask for more, Lord Justice Glidewell said: "However long the period that has passed after divorce, the power to make an application remains." However, he said: "Whether it will succeed is another matter."

Mr TwiNAME is now considering whether to take his case to the House of Lords.

A legal expert said after yesterday's ruling: "The decision calls into question the efforts that have been made in the past to achieve a system of clean financial break after divorce."

Judge has front-seat ride in rebuilt Rolls

By ROBIN YOUNG

A HIGH Court judge went for a ride round London yesterday in a rebuilt Rolls-Royce Phantom III. Its designer and owner said it had turned out "not roadworthy for just going round the houses" after Rolls-Royce failed to complete his project to turn it into a "magnificent machine collection" which would give their eyes for.

Judge Prosser, QC, who is hearing a breach of contract case brought by the car engine designer, Amherst Villiers, against Rolls-Royce, viewed the car in the car park at the Royal Courts of Justice in the Strand, and then took the front passenger seat as the vehicle, with only 99 miles on the clock, was driven into the streets of London by Richard Barton, Rolls-Royce's expert witness in the case.

Mr Villiers, aged 90 and in frail health, rode in the rear with his counsel, Peter Brunner, as Mr Barton drove over Waterloo and Lambeth Bridges and along the Embankment. Mr Villiers is suing Rolls-Royce Motor Cars for more than £440,000 plus interest for alleged breach of a 1983 agreement to turn the

Phantom III, built in the 1930s, into a turbocharged "Super Rolls".

Earlier, Mr Villiers told the court that the car had turned out completely different from what he had hoped. "It was not turbocharged, and was not even a standard Rolls-Royce. It was a mixture, and very badly executed."

He added: "Somebody went for a road test in it and had bad clutch trouble. He could not get in or out of the gears, all of which is quite disgraceful that they could not make it roadworthy for just going round the houses."

Mr Villiers said that he had hoped to have the car driven at high speed, "possibly 140 miles an hour", to prove that it was the fastest Rolls-Royce in existence.

The case continues today.

Chefs rediscover Victorian treat right under their noses

THE elusive English truffle (*tuber aestivum*), milder cousin of the better known French delicacy, is making a reappearance in the West Country after apparently vanishing for some years. Gourmets may have the recent appalling weather to thank for this unexpected temptation to their palates.

Heavy rain after several dry summers is thought to have created ideal conditions for the moisture-loving fungi, which are flourishing in private gardens, fields and woodland around Bath. While they cannot compete with the black French variety in pungency, the white-fleshed English truffles are said to have a uniquely nutty flavour.

A French chef, Philippe Roy, who runs the Clos du Roy restaurant at Box, near Bath, has collected nine ounces of truffles this year and is hoping for a bumper crop in July and August. He

Pigs find them an aphrodisiac. For chefs, the British truffle is merely exciting, reports Michael Hornsby

offers them in salads free of charge. French truffles from Périgord cost up to £14 an ounce.

M Roy said: "I did some research and found that the Bath truffle had been popular in Georgian times and is mentioned in Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*. In the Victorian period some recipes treat truffles almost like potatoes, and children were used to sniff them out because of their sharper sense of smell."

Truffles need moist undisturbed ground, especially in woodlands, and M Roy chiefly blames intensive modern farming for their

rarity in England. "In France, particularly in the Périgord region, collecting truffles is an art and farmers spend years training dogs and pigs to find them. Pigs are sexually excited by their smell."

In Bath M Roy has improvised his own detection methods. "At this time of year, the truffles secrete an acid underground which can turn the grass above slightly yellowish. Squirrels like them too and if you see them hunting around that can be a sign that truffles are present," he said.

Antonio Carluccio, of the Neal Street Restaurant in Covent Garden and an authority on mushrooms, agreed that the weather could be ideal this year for the English truffle. "The trouble is knowing where to look for them as their scent is seldom strong enough to attract dogs or pigs. The taste is agreeable - faintly earthy and a little bit nutty."

THE TIMES SATURDAY

EX-MISTRESS MARY



"Giron could not have found a more energetic, high-profile mistress than Baroness Warnock. She has produced the Warnock Report on Human Fertilisation. She has spoken out on teachers and written books and pamphlets on the plight of the university. She has gone cap in hand to America in search of rich brain-drain patrons. She has been a Dimbleby lecturer, a Whitbread judge, a Desert Island Discs castaway"

Mary Warnock, who (as in another recent case) is not exactly retiring, talks past and future to Valerie Grove

VISITING FIREMEN



"In the desert of Kuwait there are scenes that might have come from the Somme, or any of the other filthy landscapes of the first world war. Here men face vicious fire, knee-deep sometimes in black liquid, drenched with it, exhausted by the heat"

Spectacular colour pictures reveal the scale of the task faced by the fire-fighters of Kuwait, who spoke to Chris Thomas about their fears and frustrations

DECEPTION?



Is this a drawing by Michelangelo? At the last count, 600 were attributed to him. Odd: in 1960, the figure was nearer 400. Perhaps scholarship is making great advances, or is temptation the explanation? Sarah Jane Checkland investigates

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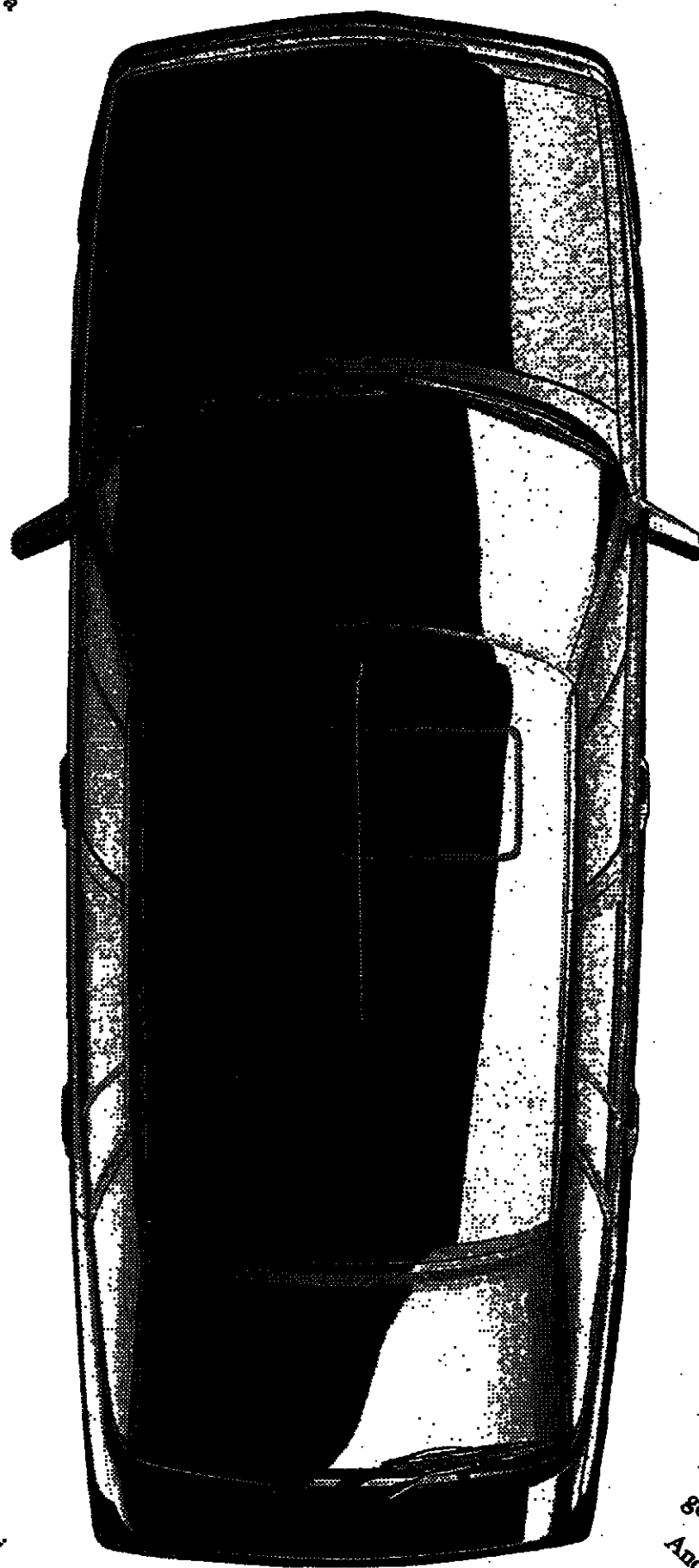
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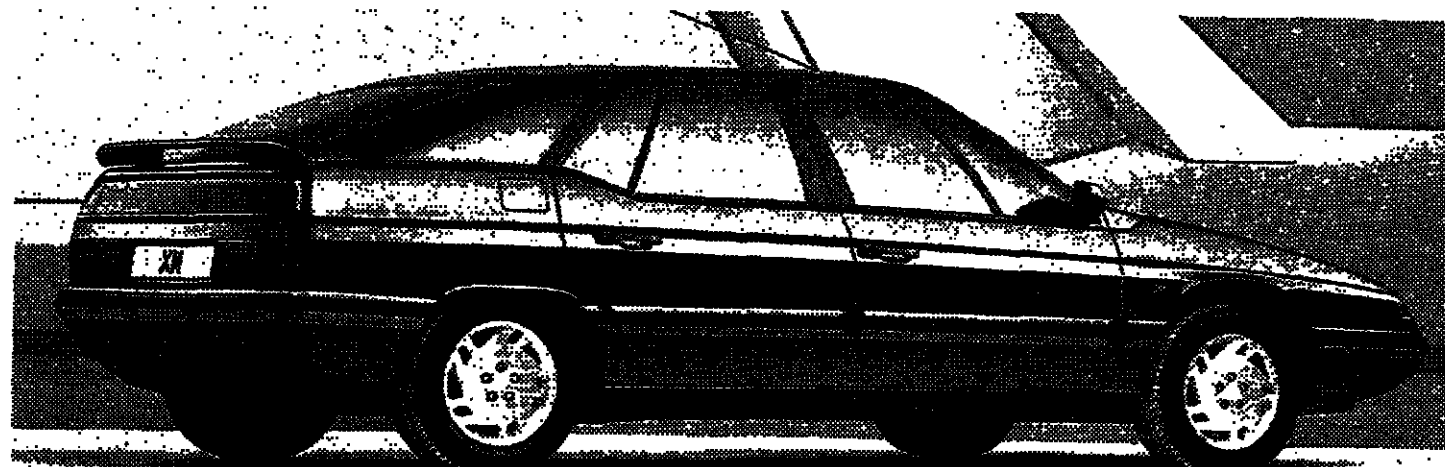
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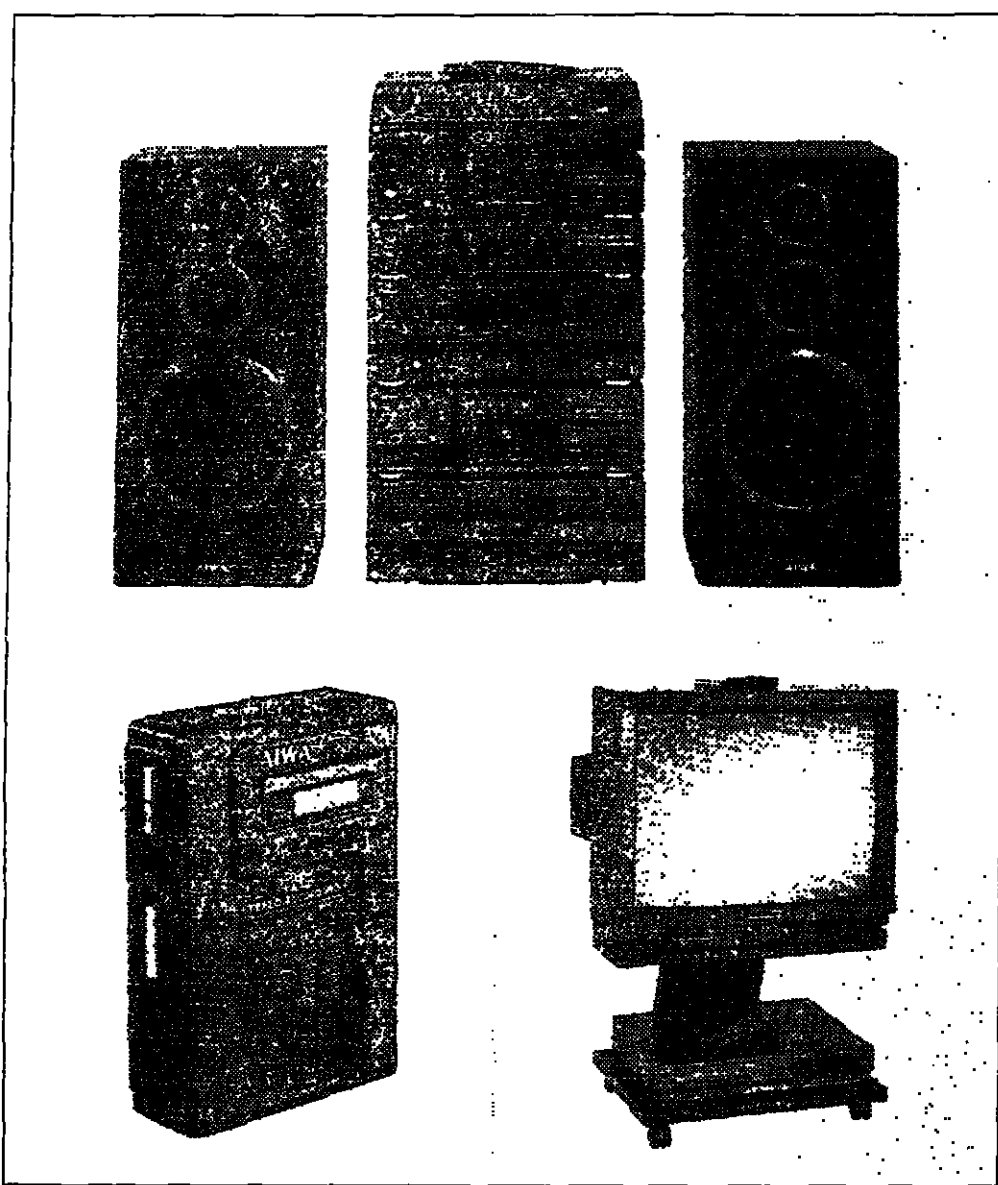


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REGIONAL TRENDS: South-East biggest spenders

Homes and food account for most family outgoings

By LIN JENKINS

WEEKLY household spending has for the first time risen to more than £100 a person, but only in the South-East, where average earnings are much higher than the rest of the country, according to the latest *Regional Trends*, the annual statistical snapshot of life in Britain. Most is spent on housing, followed by food, motoring and fares.

Households spend an average of £46.60 a week, 18.6 per cent of their weekly outgoings, on housing, £40.40 on food, £37.20 on running a car and fares on public transport, and £35.80 on leisure.

Scots spend most on alcohol and tobacco, £15.90 a week or 7.9 per cent of weekly expenditure. They also eat the most butter, 2.7 oz a week, and almost as many potatoes as people in Yorkshire and

Humberdale. East Midlands households are most likely to have a microwave oven and central heating. Weekly spending is £79.20, slightly more than the North, Humberdale and Yorkshire.

In common with the rest of the country East Midlands eat fewer vegetables and less meat than in 1981, but more fruit, fresh as well as tinned. However, with Wales, they have not followed everyone else in eating more fish. Nationally, the number of homes with a dishwasher has more than doubled, but remains unevenly spread, with 4 per cent of homes in the North compared to 14 per cent in the South-East.

Northern Ireland scores poorly for durable goods, having the lowest ownership rates for microwaves, telephones,

numble driers and videos. The region also has the lowest weekly spending rate at £68.60. Of that, 21 per cent goes on food — a higher proportion than anywhere else — 11.9 per cent on housing and 9.7 per cent on leisure.

Infant mortality, regarded as a key health indicator, is lower in the South than elsewhere. Within the South it is lowest in the South-West, with 7.9 deaths at under one year per 1,000 births, and 8.1 in the South-East, compared with 9.9 in the West Midlands and 8.8 in Yorkshire and Humberdale. East Anglia has the lowest rate at 6.4, according to figures for 1989, the most recent available.

Heart disease caused most deaths, with cancer second. Both were more common among men than women and

were less prevalent in the South. In Scotland heart disease killed 471 men and 410 women per 100,000 against the lowest rate in East Anglia of 325 for men and 273 for women and the South where rates were almost as low.

Smoking fell from 33 per cent of adults in 1986 to 32 per cent in 1988, although it rose in Humberdale and Yorkshire, the East Midlands, and Scotland, where it is the highest at 39 per cent.

In England, consumption of alcohol was heaviest in Yorkshire and Humberdale, with an average of 11.2 units a week. The North consumed an average of 10.3 units, Wales 10.2, the South-West 8.8 and East Anglia seven.

Regional Trends 26 (Stationery Office; £23)

HOW WE SPEND OUR MONEY

Household expenditure: by commodity and service, 1988-89										
£ per week	Housing	Fuel/light/power	Food	Alcohol/tobacco	Clothing	Household goods/services	Motoring/ fares	Leisure goods/services	Other goods/services	Average household expenditure
South east	46.6	10.4	44.4	13.8	17.0	34.7	37.2	35.8	11.2	261.0
South west	37.3	10.7	38.8	13.0	13.1	30.7	34.8	31.9	8.7	220.1
West Midlands	35.9	10.2	38.3	13.2	13.6	28.1	32.5	23.0	8.0	200.7
North west	34.5	10.4	37.8	13.9	13.7	25.1	30.1	28.1	9.0	205.9
North	30.2	10.4	37.4	14.7	13.5	24.4	30.5	23.7	6.9	191.7
Yorkshire/Humberdale	28.4	10.3	38.8	13.9	14.5	23.5	29.8	23.6	6.1	188.8
East Midlands	34.3	10.4	37.4	13.5	12.3	25.3	32.1	25.1	9.0	198.4
East Anglia	38.5	10.3	40.0	11.8	13.6	28.5	34.3	34.3	8.1	219.8
Wales	30.3	11.3	37.8	13.9	15.0	25.9	31.2	23.2	8.4	197.1
Scotland	n/a	10.6	38.4	15.6	15.8	24.3	27.9	23.8	7.9	186.3
Northern Ireland	23.8	14.9	42.3	11.5	18.4	27.8	35.4	19.6	7.4	201.0
United Kingdom	37.1	10.5	40.0	14.0	14.9	28.5	33.0	28.9	9.2	216.1

Source: Regional Trends

Swapping old towns for new

THE lure of greener fields is taking people away from cities and towns to more rural settings, according to *Regional Trends* (Lin Jenkins writes). The exception is Milton Keynes: in 1981-9 its

population grew by 44.8 per cent to 1,824,000, against the trend in most other parts of the country, where people are moving from urban areas.

The number of people living in Greater London fell by

0.7 per cent, in Brighton by 4.7 per cent, Ipswich 5.6, Bristol 7.1, Coventry 4.8, Newcastle upon Tyne 2.3 and Liverpool 9.9. But rural populations grew. That of north Shropshire, for example, excluding its towns, grew by 10.5 per cent. Cornwall's rural population grew by 8.8 per cent.

Striking reputation is upheld by figures

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S most strike-prone region is still the North-West, new figures from the government showed yesterday.

Local authorities and business development bodies have tried hard to dispel the image of the North-West as Britain's dominant striking region, but the analysis published by the employment department puts the area at the top of the strike list in both absolute terms — the number of strikes — and when compared with other regions.

The figures from the department are more up to date than those published today in *Regional Trends*. According to analysis of strikes in 1990 in the ministry's *Employment Gazette*, the North-West had 722, 37.9 per cent of the total for the UK of 1,903. The region with the second most strikes was the South-East, with 523 (27.5 per cent). Northern Ireland had fewest, with 18 (0.9 per cent).

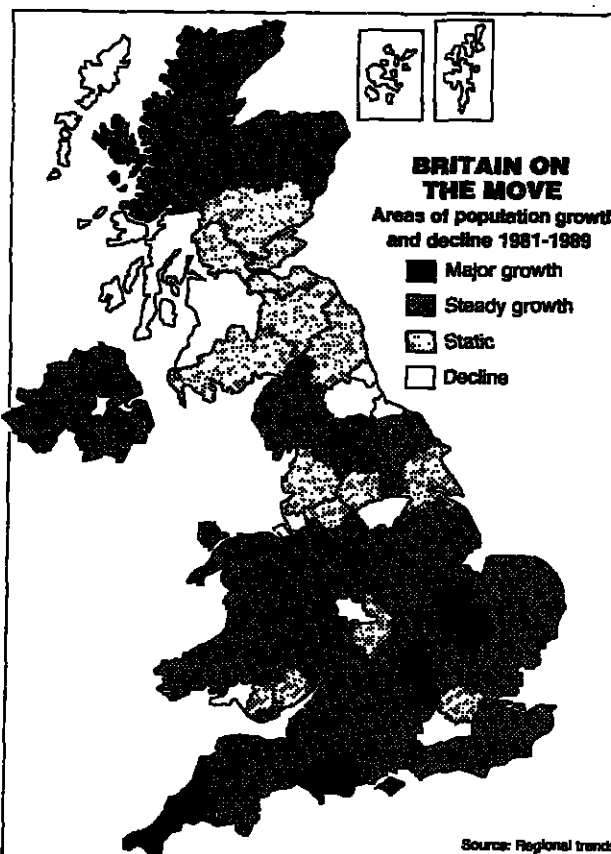
On a comparison of days lost per 1,000 employees, the North-West is still highest, with 298 lost, three-and-a-half times the national average of 83. Second was Wales, on 91. The lowest figure was recorded in the South-West, with only 13 days lost — 15 per cent of the national average.

Strikes in the motor industry caused the largest loss nationally of days, and contributed heavily to the North-West's prominence as a strike-prone region, with almost half of its lost days arising from stoppages in that industry.

Nationally, the total of 1.9 million days lost was the lowest since 1963. Eric Forth, the employment minister, said the figures proved the effectiveness of industrial relations reforms of the past 12 years.

Working days lost through strikes per 1,000 employees	
South-East	69
East Anglia	32
South-West	13
West Midlands	87
East Midlands	21
York & Humberdale	46
North-West	298
North	70
Wales	91
Scotland	62
N Ireland	35
UK	83

Source: DE



Housing stock value rises fivefold

THE house price explosion of the 1980s is shown in the fivefold increase in the market value of the nation's housing stock from £162.6 billion in 1976 to £835.7 billion in 1987 (Christopher Warman writes).

During the same period, the value of housing stock in the South-East rose sixfold, from £67.7 billion to £421.5 billion. East Anglia and the South-West had similar rises, while in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the remaining regions of England there was on average a fourfold increase.

Between 1985 and 1990, house prices more than doubled in Yorkshire and Humberdale, the East Midlands, the West Midlands, the North-West and Wales. However, in East Anglia, Greater London, the South-East and the South-West, prices that had doubled between 1985 and 1989 fell sharply in the slump.

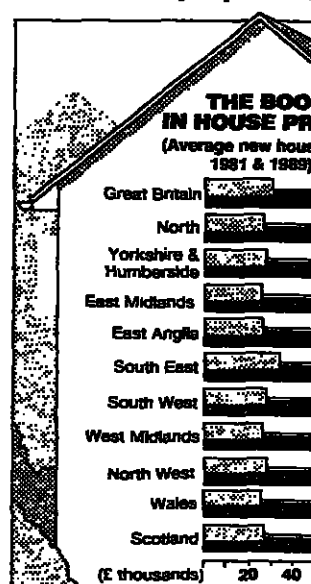
The increasing cost of land in the 1980s was one of the main causes of the rise in house prices. In England the average land price increase from 1981 to 1989 was 56 per cent. The average cost of a new home increased from

£28,500 in 1981 to £78,300 in 1989.

The number of homes showed the biggest rise in East Anglia and Northern Ireland, up by 13 per cent and 12 per cent respectively from 1981 to 1989. During the same period the total housing stock in the UK increased by 7 per cent.

from 21.6 million to 23.2 million.

The most significant housing trend of the 1980s was the rise in owner-occupation as renting decreased. In the UK, the proportion of homes with owner-occupiers rose from 57 per cent in 1981 to 67 per cent in 1989.



Average new house price 1981 & 1989	
Great Britain	£28,500 (1981) / £78,300 (1989)
North	£28,500 (1981) / £78,300 (1989)
Yorkshire & Humberdale	£28,500 (1981) / £78,300 (1989)
East Midlands	£28,500 (1981) / £78,300 (1989)
East Anglia	£28,500 (1981) / £78,300 (1989)
South East	£28,500 (1981) / £78,300 (1989)
South West	£28,500 (1981) / £78,300 (1989)
West Midlands	£28,500 (1981) / £78,300 (1989)
North West	£28,500 (1981) / £78,300 (1989)
Wales	£28,500 (1981) / £78,300 (1989)
Scotland	£28,500 (1981) / £78,300 (1989)

Caution urged on minimum wage level

A NATIONAL minimum wage would create havoc for some companies in the provinces, says the latest survey of pay trends by the Reward Group (Paul Wilkinson writes).

The West Midlands industrial base, especially, would be "desperately hard hit" by the increased costs. London would be unaffected. However, a national minimum wage fixed at anything like half the national average earnings level (about £3.27 an hour) "would widen regional differentials for unemployment levels", the survey says.

Reward suggests that a minimum wage should be pitched at a low level to act solely as a legal curb on exploitation. It proposes £2.50. On present pay scales, a minimum wage of half the national average would mean three-quarters of all routine clerical posts would be below the minimum as well as half of all unskilled or labouring jobs.

No worker in central London would fall below it, but every person carrying out routine clerical work in the West Midlands would, says Reward. "Clearly such a scheme as at present envisaged

would force up costs more in the Midlands and the North than in the South. It could be argued that this is likely to create further job losses in areas with the highest unemployment rates."

The survey also says that pay settlements are continuing to decline. The national average for March was 7.7 per cent, against 7.9 in February. However, forecasts of a drop to 6.2 per cent by next year have been revised upwards to 6.5 per cent because slightly higher settlements are expected in the South.

Conservatives cautiously begin to ask a different question



John Major

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

WESTMINSTER is more about psephology than politics these days and some cabinet strategists decided this week that they had been asking the wrong question about the apparent Tory recovery in the polls.

They gave up enquiring why Labour's lead of ten points at the start of last month should have dropped to all but level pegging now and asked instead why the Tory position should ever have deteriorated from the even position it held back in April, allowing Labour to build that lead. They concluded that the mistake was the decision after the Monmouth by-election to attack Labour over what Conservative

central office called the "big lie" about National Health Service reforms. That had succeeded only in pushing health to the top of the political agenda and so give Labour a boost. "You only have to give Robin Cook (Labour's health spokesman) a chink of light and he has jammed the door open," one ruffled minister said.

It is not too difficult a case to sustain. Over the past ten national polls before the Monmouth by-election the parties were even. On average, Labour led by 0.2 per cent. In the ten polls after Monmouth and the health service row, Labour's average lead was 6.5 per cent. Now, with that memory fading and despite the Tory upsurge over Europe, the average of the four latest polls, including one out of line with a 9

per cent lead, gives Labour a margin of 2.75 per cent.

So what is going to influence the polls now in what is clearly a highly volatile electorate? Labour's problem may be that the economy can scarcely get any worse and Europe is looking less of a problem for the government, at least for a while. There is a kind of collective instinct emerging among the Tory sheep without strong feelings on the issue that the goats at either end of the debate have had their way too long and are not to be allowed to lead them all over the edge into the abyss. Labour's tactical mistake in pressing a vote in the European debate allowed John Major to head off to Luxembourg, bolstered by a majority of 154. The beginning of the end of

Margaret Thatcher, and it is no more than a beginning, will help. And Douglas Hurd, uncharacteristically by gods and goddesses, has a keen sense of the party's centre of gravity on the issue.

Officials are hopeful about the outcome of the inter-governmental conferences at Maastricht in December, insisting that, with the eagerness of the other 11 nations to settle a deal, "we have a little axe" for prising the unpalatable.

More surprising, perhaps, has been the way the Tory party, which invariably panics in a crisis, has held its nerve through the bad patch and in the face of Labour's campaigning energy. The prime minister, who reads more newspapers than is healthy for one in his position and who

should never have expected to sustain popularity ratings at the Churchill level, sunk pretty low at one stage, according to his intimates as the poll figures worsened. But he has shaken off his depression, looking more confident in the Commons and expanding visibly in his double-breasted suit on the European stage.

Neil Kinnock should not worry too much about running behind his own party in popularity, because Opposition leaders who have not held office usually do, but he should be alarmed about the small print of the latest polls. The explanation offered earlier for Labour's post-Monmouth surge is surely confirmed by the verdict when NOP asked who could be trusted to take care of the

health service. It was Kinnock 51 per cent, Major 38. But who would make the best decisions in a crisis? Kinnock 22, Major 67 per cent. Who could best handle Britain's future in Europe? Kinnock 29, Major 59. Who would best protect living standards? Kinnock 41, Major 47. And, most important in a pocket-book as well as a presidential-style election, who would best manage the economy? Kinnock 30, Major 59. In the light of those figures, Conservative planners are steeling themselves to start focusing on the economy even before there is evidence that the recession has taken a turn for the better, on the ground that, even while the electors believe Britain is in a hole, they can be persuaded that the Tories carry bigger spoils.

Peers renew revolt in life sentence clash with MPs

By PETER MULLIGAN

THE government was defeated four times in the Lords last night over life sentences for murder and peers now face a confrontation with the Commons.

Although they backed down on the central issue of mandatory life sentences for murder - they agreed to leave the law unchanged - peers voted to give increased powers to a tribunal to be set up to review sentences. At present the home secretary of the day decides when a murderer is to be released. The effect of the

amendments to the criminal justice bill made last night means that the tribunal gets that power.

In April, the upper House voted overwhelmingly to give judges the right to set fixed terms for murder. This was overturned in the Commons last week and at the urging of Lord Waddington, leader of the Lords, that decision was accepted yesterday.

But by 134 votes to 83 peers passed an amendment which means that mandatory life sentences for murder are included in the review procedure, as well as those life sentences passed for other offences such as manslaughter and rape.

The changes will be resisted by the government and ministers will ask the Commons to reinstate its proposals.

Another defeat was on an amendment providing that a judge must specify how much of a life sentence is punitive thus setting a date for review. Under government proposals, the judge would have a discretion to do so.

A further defeat removed the power of a Home Secretary to defer for six months, on grounds of public interest, the release of a prisoner after the Parole Board had recommended that release.

Lord Nathan, who moved the amendment which led to the first defeat, said that he did not agree that mandatory life sentences were a "different creature" from the discretionary kind for other offences.

He said that to pass his amendment would not mean a confrontation with the Com-

mons, but merely give them an opportunity to consider the matter.

The decision not to oppose the government over mandatory life sentences came without a division after peers heard from Lord Waddington, leader of the House and a former home secretary, that the law could well be changed as they would like - but not yet.

Urging them not to insist on their proposal, which MPs rejected last week, he said: "I am certainly not saying baldly to you that the Commons has spoken and you must agree. I am very well aware of how often you have shaped public opinion and attitudes and I would not be surprised if, at some future date, policy on this matter does change as a result of a change in public opinion which you have influenced."

"I am simply saying that I wonder whether the time for change is now. The criminal law has always reflected public attitudes. The public in general do feel that the mandatory life sentence is appropriate."

In April, peers passed by 98 votes an amendment to the criminal justice bill allowing judges to set sentences for murder instead of, as now, passing a life sentence whose length is then decided by ministers. Last week, the Commons threw out the proposal by 78 votes on the advice of Kenneth Baker, home secretary, who said that it would undermine public confidence.

Yesterday, Lord Campbell of Alloway, a Tory peer, said that the whole bill could be lost unless there was agreement between the two Houses by the end of the session.

Labour promises to check councils

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TEAMS of management advisers will be sent in, under proposals announced yesterday in Labour's citizen's charter, to help officials to run local authorities where there is a breakdown of services.

Local authorities will also be ordered to put services out for compulsory competitive tendering where councils have consistently failed to meet published standards.

The specialist management teams would be sent in to local authorities under powers to be given to a quality commission that Labour plans to create to monitor and improve the running of local authorities. Labour hopes that under such arrangements the kind of problems that have developed in Lambeth and Liverpool councils could be dealt with before they became a serious political embarrassment.

Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, said: "In instances such as Lambeth and Liverpool, if we had a quality commission in position we would have been able to take action to nip in the bud a developing situation."

Labour's launch of its widening citizen's charter was an attempt to pre-empt the government which is planning a white paper for publication later this month that will



Neil Kinnock, watched by Jack Cunningham, in London yesterday launching Labour's plans to regulate councils

include measures to strengthen consumer and citizens' rights. With both parties anxious to portray themselves as the true defenders of the citizens' rights and powers, Bryan Gould dismissed the prime minister's plan for a citizens' charter.

Launching the document, Neil Kinnock said that the charter would apply to all who sold and provided goods and services in private commerce, utilities, the public and private sectors, central and local government. Mr Kinnock in-

sisted that Labour had been developing its proposals over the past five years and accused the government of trying to cobble together something in haste and as an afterthought. The government's concern was sudden and synthetic, Mr Kinnock said. "The prime minister's motives have more to do with pre-election public relations than with any profound or practical desire to defend the rights of citizens and consumers."

Labour proposals include the creation of quangos with

powers to set and monitor standards, issue advice, and impose sanctions. The party plans a health quality commission dealing with the National Health Service, a consumer protection commission that will bring together the present utility regulators, an education standards commission dealing with education, and a quality commission that would incorporate the work of the Audit Commission and oversee local government. An environment protection executive would

enforce controls over pollution of land, sea, air and water and an independent prison ombudsman would help prisoners with complaints.

As Labour launched its charter, Francis Maude, the Treasury financial secretary who is playing a key role in preparing the government's charter, said that if Labour had to choose between citizens and vested interests, the vested interests would always win. "Labour in theory is the citizens' friend, in practice it is the unions' servant."

Funeral price guidance

Edward Leigh, consumer affairs minister, said at a question time that he intended to suggest to the national association of funeral directors that funeral costs should be itemised in order to give better guidance to bereaved families.

New peer



Datta O'Cathain (above), managing director of the Barbican Centre in London, was introduced in the Lords as Lady O'Cathain. She will sit on the cross benches.

CD sales up

Production of compact discs in Britain rose from 1.1 million in 1985 to 78.5 million last year, Edward Leigh, consumer affairs minister, said at question time. He rejected allegations of price fixing.

Special coin

A commemorative crown coin is to be issued in 1993 to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Queen's coronation, Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, announced in a written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Home Office; prime minister. Debates on the steel industry and on hospital waiting lists. Lords (3): School teachers' pay and conditions bill, committee.

Ashdown launches £3bn jobs scheme

By SHEILA GUNN AND JOHN WINDER

PADDY Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, accused the government yesterday of washing its hands of unemployment as the party launched a £3.3 billion programme of job creation, training and incentives for struggling firms.

The party's *Just the Job* document, aimed at cutting the dole queue by almost 400,000 over 12 months, says that the unemployed are the victims of the government's incompetence and described its response to the rising jobless figures as callous and unacceptable.

Mr Ashdown said: "Unlike Labour, we are not prepared to gamble with inflation. We will not relax the fight against inflation. We will not buy jobs today at the expense of added job losses tomorrow."

The programme includes a local employment initiative for the jobless to help to improve council homes and other buildings; more funds for training and enterprise councils; and allowing firms to charge interest on outstanding debts.

□ The government was accused of wanting to resurrect the Seventies battles with the

trade unions through its plans for a fresh tranche of union restrictions.

Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, told a Westminster press gallery lunch: "We should leave the past to those who live in it. With a little imagination, we could get employers and unions together. There is no need to resurrect unnecessary battles."

There would be no wholesale repeal of Conservative employment law, and no return to flying pickets under Labour. Instead, a Labour government would construct a new consensus between employers and employees.

Mr Blair defended his plans for a national minimum wage, condemned by ministers. "There is something more than mildly obscene," he said, "about a government that will sit on its hands while the chairmen of privatised industries award themselves a 160 per cent pay rise, but fight to the death the notion of the lowest paid getting £3.40 an hour."

Queen 'should pay taxes'

By JOHN WINDER

A BILL requiring the Queen and the Prince of Wales to pay taxes on their income and wealth was given an unopposed first reading in the Commons yesterday, but will make no further progress.

Simon Hughes (Southwest and Bermondsey, Lib Dem) presented, under the temporary rule, his constitutional reform bill which would also change the law of succession

to give women equal rights. Mr Hughes said that the provision on succession should not be controversial, and would not affect the succession for two generations. He hoped that nobody would oppose the principle of equal opportunity. In 1971, the Treasury had asserted that

the Queen was not liable to pay taxes unless Parliament said so explicitly or by inevitable inference. In earlier times, monarchs had paid tax on their personal and private wealth, but progressively since 1910 concessions had been negotiated. Now, Mr Hughes added, the monarch paid no income, inheritance, capital gain, or capital transfer tax or investment surcharge.

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Federal army chiefs manoeuvre for peace on their terms

FEDERAL army generals who a few days ago invaded Slovenia to save Yugoslavia are now concentrating on saving their army. This important shift of focus has changed the rules of the game in Yugoslav politics.

The images of defeat are everywhere. Yugoslav tank drivers bleeding in their turret, frightened young soldiers, their hands up, walking down a mined highway. Hundreds of soldiers have deserted in this short war and the trust between ethnic groups in the multinational army is collapsing.

Statements by the army, from the headline chief of staff, General Blagoje Adzic, to the apologists who work for the Belgrade newspaper *Politika*, claim betrayal and treason. The tone is that of an army on the political

defensive. Now, before agreeing to the ceasefire announced by the chairman of the Yugoslav presidency, Stipe Mesic, on Tuesday night, the army wants to ensure there will be peace on its terms. This is the reason it is sending armoured columns into Slovenia and Croatia. Armies are happy on the move, and the morale of units outside Slovenia seems to be rising.

The aims of the current operation are still obscure. The most likely reason is that the army has deployed in force not to crush Slovenia but to protect its own men from harassment, some of it imagined or exaggerated, by the Slovenes. The army may also want to accomplish its original limited goal: to secure all border crossings and show that the federal state is in control of its borders.

The government of Ante Markovic, the prime minister, appears to have sanctioned military action at the beginning, but panicked when troops dug in and the Slovenes fought back. The army, too, was surprised and found itself virtually immobilised by the rebels' guerrilla strategy. Now the army is trying again, this time with a huge force.

The question of who controls the army is still open. There is technically a political commander-in-chief, Dr Mesic, a Croat, who has just been installed as the chairman of the collective presidency. But the Serbian-

Belgrade's top brass are on the political defensive and wondering how to retain their hold on power, Roger Boyes writes from Ljubljana

dominated officer corps is not inclined to take orders from a Croat, and the high command has made no official declaration on the ceasefire plan proposed by the president. The army is thus in political limbo, but it has become used, over the past five years, to acting virtually autonomously.

The only thread connecting the army with the federal state at the moment is the relationship between Mr Markovic and the defence minister, General Veljko Kadijevic. The two seem to have a common view of a federal Yugoslavia, with an increased dose of market economics and democracy. But this thread has become very stretched in the light of the dismal reports from the front.

The sequence of events on Tuesday said much about the balance of power in the army. In the morning, the general staff heard the intelligence dispatches about the miserable situation of their soldiers in Slovenia. It was agreed to make a powerful statement and General Adzic recorded an anxious, fighting speech for Belgrade television. At that time Dr Mesic was on his way to Ljubljana, the Slovene capital, to work

out a peace plan. He remained in telephone contact with General Kadijevic.

Ultimately, however, he did not win a commitment of support from the army. The minister preferred to wait until his soldiers in Slovenia are safe. The result is that President Mesic is left hanging in the air and the army view remains General Adzic's cryptic and aggressive statement.

The Yugoslav army is highly political, alone with Albania and the Soviet Union in having political officers. The Communist party has officially been buried in Yugoslavia, and the army is supposed to be free of politicising, but the communists are active in the barracks.

The army's strategic thinking is still based on socialist times, but it has lost the will and ability to fight for a socialist Yugoslavia. Instead there are two options: restore the status quo and help work out a mildly adjusted political framework, or accept Slovenia's independence and concentrate on fighting for a Greater Serbia.

The first option is supported by such "liberal" Yugoslav officers as the defence minister. He knows the

army itself will collapse if Yugoslavia founders. But this week he also realised that only the use of force can restore the status quo. By some accounts that has disillusioned and baffled him.

The Greater Serbia scenario, which is embraced by a decisive core of 15 generals and may have broader support among more than 100 other generals of Serbian descent, would also involve the shedding of blood.

This confusion has led to early, but not yet final, defeat in Slovenia. The Slovenes have everything to fight for: to be able to defend your borders from attack is one of the most important tests of statehood and sovereignty. But the Slovenes, with their tiny professional military nucleus of 300 and a trained part-time army of only 30,000 do not have much of a chance.

Slovenia is ambush country. Hit-and-run tactics served it well against the Germans in the second world war, but it has no control of the air, and only a few anti-aircraft units. A fully committed army, with strong political backing, cannot ultimately be defeated by this small alpine republic.

If a war breaks out in earnest, the Slovenes are gambling on extending it, while avoiding pitched battles. In the last resort, the West will have to press the Yugoslavs into withdrawal — and recognise the separate existence of Slovenia.



Eating out: the crew of a Yugoslav armoured vehicle pausing for lunch on their way back to barracks in Zagreb, the Croatian capital

Hurt pride drives Adzic strategy

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE strategy of General Blagoje Adzic, the Yugoslav chief of staff, seems based as much on hurt pride as on military common sense.

The weekend debacle, in which units of the Yugoslav army failed to establish any authority in Slovenia, was a humiliating experience for the military hierarchy in Belgrade. The units sent to

instill order were too small and soon ran out of supplies, making them easy targets for the Slovene militia.

It is difficult to see, however, what General Adzic hopes to achieve by sending so many tanks and artillery pieces to Slovenia. General Adzic is a tank warfare expert but he is not about to fight a tank war with the

Slovene territorial defence force, which possesses no tanks, other than those captured from the Yugoslav army. The objective of this headline Marxist commander is clearly to use armed force to protect communist interests and influence, and at the same time to restore the army's self-confidence and prestige.

Military deploys tanks in defiance of federal president's ceasefire plan

FROM TIM JUDAH AND ROGER BOYES IN LJUBLJANA

YUGOSLAV generals, shuffling off a ceasefire proposal by Stipe Mesic, the federal president, deployed a tank army that seems destined to be used against Slovenia. The move, which comes after several days of fighting between the army and the Slovene resistance, again sparked speculation that the generals had broken free of political control and were intent on solving the conflict by force.

Last night the Slovene government did not rule out an imminent attack. Unofficial reports suggest that the Slovenes have intercepted army communications, preparing for an attack within a day. Jelko Kacin, the minister of information, said: "They are massing on our borders and are an obvious pressure on our state. It is still not clear

whether they will receive orders to continue the aggression they began a few days ago; indeed, that order may already have been given."

The tanks were ordered out of their Belgrade barracks at 2am yesterday and travelled in convoy towards Croatia. The convoy split into three and headed for the largest concentration of ethnic Serbs in Croatia. One is reported to be regrouping in Sid, close to the Croatian area of Slavonia, an area of constantly simmering tensions.

One theory is that the army wants to prevent any flare-up of Serb and Croatian violence. The troops can then focus on Slovenia. General Blagoje Adzic, chief of staff, said on Tuesday night: "War for the defence of the country has been forced on us ... the

alternative, surrender or treason, does not exist. We will establish control and carry things to the end."

The army plan was still not clear last night, however: it may be planning to protect its men during a period of disengagement rather than to launch a full-scale attack against the Slovenes. But in Croatia there were fears that the army, dominated by Serbian officers, was in fact moving to create a Greater Serbia. If the outside world moves to recognise Croatia and Slovenia and their independence can be realised, then it is expected that Serbia will try, as it has threatened before, to create a Greater Serbia that would include the Serb-populated part of Slavonia, the mutinous Serb division of Croatia called Krajina, and parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Reports reached Ljubljana last night that part of the Belgrade tank column had wheeled south, possibly heading for Krajina. Yesterday *Vjesnik*, the main Zagreb daily, said: "A quiet, military coup has replaced the pro-Yugoslav current within the army leadership with a greater Serbian cadre". Several days ago, the Slovene head of the army division which covers Slovenia was replaced by a Serb.

Tentative moves were being made yesterday afternoon to implement the ceasefire. Some tanks at the village of Jesenice, which were not blocked by Slovene troops, turned round and headed for their Croatian base, and helicopters began delivering food to beleaguered units in the republic. However, even these moves caused friction as Slovene officials accused the army of using helicopters with Red Cross emblems as secret reconnaissance missions.

Yesterday evening, there were no reports of clashes but earlier there was firing from tanks in the direction of the village of Brezice near the Croatian border and several houses were set on fire. There was also an unexplained explosion behind the barracks at Tivka and houses were set on fire during a clash at the town of Ormoz. There were also other scattered shooting incidents.



Taking flight: one of many British tourists waiting at Trieste, in Italy, after their holiday in the Slovene resort of Pula was cut short by fighting in the republic

Calm belies fears in Ljubljana

FROM TIM JUDAH IN LJUBLJANA

DESPITE a week of conflict and columns of tanks advancing towards Slovenia, people in Ljubljana remain extraordinarily calm. Going about their business and weaving through the roadblocks, one might be forgiven for thinking that war was a long way off. But that is a misleading impression.

A calm exterior belies an

increasing fear of the future. "I am not panicking," said Katysa, aged 43. "But I just thought it sensible to lay in a few supplies." She was carrying two shopping bags full of tins of sardines and other cans which could keep her family going for a week.

In one street, a woman was carrying a small suitcase and escorting her mother, aged 80.

She was unsure if tanks would come to Ljubljana but her mother said they would.

Although hundreds of lorries are being used in roadblocks, food shops are still receiving supplies. "They come round the back routes," said an assistant. Many people are not going to work and factory workers have been sent home.

Fighting scars beauty of republic

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN MURKICE, SLOVENIA

DRAGAN beamed through the front hatch of a battered armoured troop carrier, his long blond hair held back by a vivid headband and his T-shirt proclaiming "Maximum Power".

The young Slovene had taught himself to drive the vehicle, captured this week from the Yugoslav army, and by the time we came across him in a winding country lane near Braganca, Dragan's objective was to get the carrier back to the local militia post. "We have very little to defend ourselves with here, so everything is welcome," he told us proudly. He was prepared to drive it into action if necessary, though he realised it offered little or no protection against modern weapons.

Just down the lane was the scene of the clash. Federal forces had tried to smash their way through a road block but were expertly taken on both flanks. Another troop carrier was still there, blackened and burned beyond salvage. All around lay the debris of war: an army helmet, a jumble of charred uniforms, somebody's left boot. We drove another few hundred yards to discover a twisted skeleton of a badly burned T55 tank and one of the Yugoslav army's most modern tanks, the equivalent of the Soviet-made T-72.

The whole of this region of southern Slovenia is now bristling with militia roadblocks, usually heavy lorries and earth movers. Many are reinforced with steel tank traps, and there are sometimes signs warning civilians that mines have been planted. Almost all the bridges over the lovely Sava River have also been blocked. The occupants of an elderly Toyota with British number plates rattled up to a small wooden bridge. A voice with a pronounced Birmingham accent then asked if anyone knew the best way to the Austrian border. They were Muslim pilgrims on the return trip from Mecca. "Why are there so many tanks around?" one inquired politely, looking rather startled. When it had been explained, the Toyota reversed away to search for a road that would lead to a less dangerous frontier crossing.

Slovenia sets its sights on Europe

Slovenia should be a sovereign state in a united Europe, not part of Yugoslavia, said yesterday.

"We are ready to give up our sovereignty, or parts of it, but not to Belgrade, not to the Yugoslav People's Army," Mr Rupel said in a radio interview. "We want to be integrated into Europe as soon as possible."

"We don't want anything else but to be similar to other European nations," Mr Rupel went on, adding that army thrusts to crush independence moves by Slovenia and Croatia had ruined any hope of holding the country together. "I'm sorry to say the idea we had ourselves proposed, the idea of (a looser) confederation with other republics in Yugoslavia ... is dead," he said. (Reuters)

Letters, page 19

Offer by prince

Yugoslavia's exiled Crown Prince Alexander offered to go there as its monarch, saying only he could unify the country. Alexander, son of the late King Peter, said he could be a constitutional umpire and lead Yugoslavia into democracy and a free-market economy. (Reuters)

Asylum sought

Bonn — The number of Yugoslavs seeking political asylum in Germany during the first six months of 1991 was 35 per cent higher than for the same period in 1990, the interior ministry reported. The 15,000 Yugoslavs were the biggest national group among the 90,769 foreigners who asked for asylum. (AFP)

Jams at borders

Vienna — The conflict in Yugoslavia led to huge traffic jams at Austria's borders. There were delays of up to 30 hours at frontier crossings as drivers tried to bypass Slovenia by using routes through Hungary. (Reuters)

Spectator ban

Sydney — Football fans have been banned from a cup semi-final here because of possible violence between the supporters of a Serbian side and a Croat club. (AFP)

European security body urges truce

FROM GERARD DAVIES IN PRAGUE

EUROPE'S new security organisation, facing its first real test, has issued an urgent appeal to Yugoslavia for a ceasefire.

The Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) called on the Yugoslav authorities to stop all hostile actions and regain political control of the armed forces. Wilhelm Hoeynck, ambassador and head of the German delegation, read a statement accepted by the crisis committee in Prague last night. "All fighting has to stop immediately. There must be political control over all armed forces. These forces must return to their barracks and stay there," it said. Imposing

criticism of the breakaway states of Slovenia and Croatia, the statement added: "Hostile actions against these barracks must stop. Prisoners taken during the hostilities must be released immediately."

The leading officials from the 35 member nations of the CSCE are concerned about reports that the army is no longer under the control of the federal government. Jiri Dienstbier, the Czechoslovak foreign minister, said: "Now it is necessary to find out whether the government in Yugoslavia has the army under its control, because if not it would be hardly possible to negotiate with official institutions."

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Derek Barron
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July 4, 1991

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Gorbachev says attacks on reform put party at risk

By MARY DEJEVSKY AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Gorbachev believes the Communist party is doomed if hardline attacks on his reforms continue. "If this goes on, if the party remains in its present state, it will lose all future political battles and elections," he said in a speech reported in *Pravda* yesterday.

Mr Gorbachev was responding to attacks by party conservatives who have demanded his resignation, accusing him of betraying the ideals of communism and of allowing the Soviet Union to disintegrate. He delivered his speech to a group drawing up a new programme for the party, which is increasingly divided by internal feuds between hardliners and reformers.

Mr Gorbachev's apparent swing to the reformists over the past few months was highlighted on Tuesday when he welcomed the formation of the Movement for Democratic Reform, a political grouping that could kill off communism if, as expected, it becomes a political party.

Mr Gorbachev said the time had come to stop worshipping every statement made by Lenin and Marx, fathers of the modern Soviet state. "We must speak openly about the need to abandon religious

worshipping of the founders, worshipping literally everything they have said and written," he said.

Valentin Pavlov, the Soviet prime minister, said in a speech yesterday that even if the entire Soviet army were disbanded tomorrow, the country's internal budget deficit, now standing at more than 113 billion roubles (about £11 billion at the tourist rate), would not be eliminated.

Addressing his first press conference in the government's new central Moscow headquarters, Mr Pavlov also expressed concern about this year's harvest.

He was speaking the day after he told a Kremlin meeting of representatives from the Soviet Union's 15 republics that, if latest forecasts for the harvest of between 180 and 190 million tonnes were accurate, the Soviet Union would have to import 77 million tonnes of grain, more than twice as much as last year. He said yesterday that the projected production figure related to the net amount, not to the gross figure. In the past, up to 30 per cent of the Soviet harvest had been lost in transit or because of poor storage facilities.

Ethiopia recognises Eritrea

From DAVID CHAZAN IN ADDIS ABABA

AN AGREEMENT has been reached to give Ethiopia access to the sea in return for what amounts to independence for the northern province of Eritrea, Ethiopian officials said yesterday.

The deal has been struck between the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, which took power in Ethiopia in May after forcing the former president, Mengistu Haile Mariam, to flee the country, and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, which fought for independence for 30 years in Africa's longest civil war.

Ethiopia has been deprived of access to the sea since the Eritrean front took control of the strategic coastal province days before the democratic front marched in to Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa.

Diplomats said discussion on Eritrea's future dominated all-party talks, called by the democratic front to choose Ethiopia's new interim government, to rule until elections in a year or two.

The Eritrea plan assures, for the first time, Ethiopian recognition of Eritrea's right to a referendum on independence, which was long opposed by Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu, diplomats said. In return, Eritrea's key Red Sea port of Asab would become a free port. A former Italian colony, Eritrea held federal status within Ethiopia until it was annexed by Emperor Haile Selassie in 1961. (AFP)



Posing a challenge: would-be beauty contestants lining up in Peking yesterday. The Chinese authorities have yet to decide whether to permit the holding of a competition billed as "Beauty from the Forbidden City", planned for September, in which entrants would parade in swimsuits

China hires Americans to lobby Congress

Peking — China's communist leaders have turned to one of the big names of American capitalism to help them argue their case over retaining trade privileges (Catherine Sampson writes). Peking has hired Hill and Knowlton, the public relations company. Never be-

fore has China employed a foreign public relations company to promote its policies, but then it has never before admitted that it needed help in improving its image abroad. China stands to lose up to \$10 billion (£6.25 billion) in trade with the United States if

Congressmen withdraw most favoured nation trading status over Peking's record on human rights, arms sales and copyright. Frank Mankiewicz, the vice-chairman of Hill and Knowlton, said his company would lobby congressmen on China's behalf. President

Bush argues that the only way to bring about political liberalisation in China is to keep trade exchanges alive. It seems unlikely, however, that Peking will allow Hill and Knowlton to use that argument because it opposes political liberalisation. "We don't polish images," Mr Mankiewicz said, but he would not say how the company would persuade congressmen in Peking's favour.

Until now, China has floundered in its attempts to lobby congressmen. China's usual, heavy-handed approach to the art of persuasion is to tell the offender that his attitude is wrong. Li Peng, the prime minister, has said publicly that he would retaliate against American businesses investing in China if most favoured nation trading status were withdrawn. He delivered his ultimatum to his guest, the chief representative of Boeing in China, in an after-dinner speech, saying that he would get no more orders for aircraft.

The implicit admission in China's decision to use a foreign public relations firm is that Peking cannot cope with Washington on its own, and that is damaging both to its leaders' self-esteem and to its already tattered image at home. One foreign businessman said: "Hiring a consultant is like seeing a doctor; you are admitting there is something wrong with you."

Trump to marry girl he jilted

New York — A week after he jilted his girlfriend in spectacular fashion by way of the media, Donald Trump, New York's self-styled "master of the deal", told television viewers yesterday that he had changed his mind and would marry her (Charles Bremner writes). "Maria is a very special person," Mr Trump told a breakfast television host who inquired in a live telephone interview about the fate of Miss Maples, the "Georgia Peach", whom he described last week as "too obsessive" for him. "We have decided this is the thing to do."

Arms deal hope

Washington — Viktor Komplakov, the Soviet ambassador, said it was "quite possible" that President Bush and President Gorbachev would sign a strategic arms reduction deal this summer. "If we leave this unfinished, I'm afraid we won't have much time to regain the momentum," he told *The Washington Post*.

Noses have it

Paris — One French MP was taken to hospital and others were evacuated from the National Assembly building to escape a pungent smell of garlic. (Reuters)

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

Hot under the collar on red-neck heritage

America hails its birthday today with a host of Desert Storm parades, a new Arnold Schwarzenegger film, and squabbling among the intellectual classes about the wisdom of celebrating the achievements of a clique of dead, white males, some of them even slave owners.

For most Americans, July 4 is a chance for red-white-and-blue festivity, complete with barbecues and the prospect of an extended weekend. Today is also an occasion for "flyover country", the term the cynics of the two coasts apply to the heartland, to celebrate the victory in the Gulf. President Bush is making the most of the lingering patriotic surge from the war, travelling across the Midwest, starting at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota, where he will rededicate the cliff-face sculptures of Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. The "shrine to democracy" was unveiled 50 years ago today.

Yesterday, Mr Bush bestowed Presidential Medals of Freedom, the highest civil honour, on General Norman Schwarzkopf, the Gulf commander, and General Colin Powell, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, calling them "the men that our heroes look up to". In a surprise move, Mr Bush also gave the Medal of Freedom to James Baker, the Secretary of State, Brent Scowcroft, his National Security Adviser, and Richard Cheney, the defence secretary. "Desert Storm marked the end of an era of self-doubt and lingering uncertainty about America's staying power and sense of purpose," Mr Bush said.

Many are heading for the cinema for the return of

Armie, the Austrian muscleman, whose new film, *Terminator 2*, opens today. In this reprise of the 1984 epic, rumoured to have cost a record \$100 million (£62.5 million), Schwarzenegger again plays a lethal robot and demonstrates even more spectacular ways of killing regiments of bad guys, the critics say.

But the 215th birthday party of the Declaration of Independence has also simplified the feud in the intellectual world and the black community over whether there is anything worth celebrating. All those 56 colonials did in Philadelphia was to replace one tyranny with another, that of the white "Eurocentric" male, according to the more radical end of a cultural view that has taken firm root in recent years.

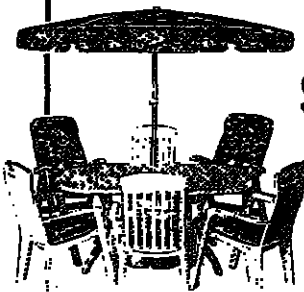
If it was "self-evident" that "all men are created equal", as the declaration stated, why did Jefferson own black slaves and why were women not mentioned, wonder revisionists? Such thinking, being taught to children in California, New York and other states, springs from the doctrine of "diversity". "All across the country, students are imbibing a version of the past and present that their parents would not recognise," *Time* magazine said. "The customs, beliefs and principles that have unified the US for more than two centuries are being challenged with a ferocity not seen since the Civil War." A *Washington Post* editorial said: "It is probably only a matter of time until celebrations of the Fourth of July are pronounced un-American, insensitive and immoral."

Leading article, page 19

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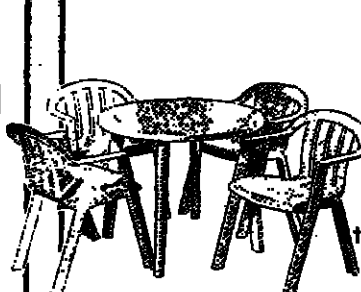
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UN big five to meet on Iraqi nuclear inspection

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR, IN LONDON
AND CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

THE five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are expected to meet tomorrow to decide their response to Iraq's refusal to allow investigators access to equipment believed to have been used in a clandestine nuclear weapons programme.

"The five have agreed that it is a very alarming situation," a senior diplomat said after hearing reports from Geneva from Rolf Ekeus, the head of the special commission which failed to win access to the facilities during a tour of Iraq. Mr Ekeus is expected to fly to New York later today after reporting to Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, in Europe.

There was agreement among the five — Britain, America, France, China and the Soviet Union — that Iraq should not be allowed to flout the UN order, made last Friday, which spoke of "serious consequences" if it did so, diplomats said. Force is one option being considered, but it is unlikely that any military action would be authorised until after further diplomatic attempts to change Baghdad's mind. One diplomat summed up the council consensus on the Iraqis' position: "It is amazingly stupid of them. The only explanation is that they have something to hide and don't want to divulge it."

Nuclear weapons experts believe the Iraqis used a technology described in textbooks and easily available without having to circumvent international controls. The originator of the method was Dr Ernest Lawrence, an American physicist from the University of California. He realised that his cyclotron, an early atom-smasher, could be modified to separate the isotopes of uranium, producing the almost pure uranium-235 needed for a bomb.

The principle is the same as that of the mass spectrograph, invented at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge in 1919. If atoms are ionised so that they carry a charge, and then propelled through a magnetic field, they will follow a curved track, the radius of which depends on the mass of each ion. Heavier ions will follow a wider arc, lighter ones a narrower one. All that was necessary to separate them, Dr Lawrence argued, were collecting cups at the points where the two beams arrived. The heavier uranium-238 ions would land in one cup, the lighter uranium-235 ions in the other.

Dr Lawrence called the invention "calutron", derived from "another iron from California". During the Manhattan Project, it was a leading candidate for producing bomb material, and enormous amounts of money were spent on it. By 1943, the calutron facilities at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, consisted of 268 buildings covering the equivalent of more than 20 football fields and employing 20,000 workers — in order to produce uranium-235 in quantities of a gram or two a day. When the project ran short of copper to make the electromagnets, the US Treasury handed over 13,000 tons of silver from the US reserves, worth \$300 million, which was turned into wire.

Despite this effort, the method proved slow and inefficient, and experts wonder why the Iraqis adopted it. American intelligence sources claim that the 80 to 100 lorries which left an Iraqi base before the UN team got there contained calutrons and magnets. "It would have taken them years to make even a single bomb with this method," John Simpson of Southampton university said yesterday.

Justice passes Gaza by

From PAUL ADAMS
IN GAZA

THE judge, an army officer, spoke only Hebrew; the defendants, young Palestinians dressed in blue prison garb, only Arabic. In between, lounging confidently against the bench, stood a translator from the minority Druse community; fluent, but selective, in both. The rest of the cast, jammed into a bare courtroom, consisted of soldiers, armed with automatic rifles, and noisy, nervous relatives. At the back, a handful of Western journalists watched as the bizarre ritual of military justice in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip unfolded.

Notable by their absence were the defence lawyers, on strike in protest against allegedly inadequate facilities and a lack of respect from the courts. Left to defend themselves, the prisoners took on the court. They lost every case. After three and a half years of the Palestinian uprising, the routine was familiar to everyone. The prisoners, looking well-fed and fit despite months in the Ketzioz detention centre in the Negev desert, seemed to take defeat well, clearly expecting little else.

For most of them, the highlight of the morning was a chance to see their families. One mother tried to persuade a guard to pass a handful of family snapshots and some cigarettes to her son. The guard might have done her this favour but for the angry intervention of a police interrogator.

The charges ranged from stone-throwing and writing intifada graffiti, to attempting to beat up suspected collaborators. In one case, the list inexplicably included shouting "Allah Akbar" (God is Greatest), the words uttered five times a day from every mosque in the country.

The translator seemed alarmingly influential. When the judge asked a defendant in Hebrew if he "accepted" the testimony of an interrogator, the young Druse soldier asked merely if he "understood" it. Yes, the Palestinian replied, helping to seal his fate.



Showing their colours: Lebanese soldiers brandishing knives to cut up a Palestinian flag in Qatayeh yesterday after capturing the southern Lebanese village from guerrillas of the Palestine Liberation Organisation

Arafat reels on ropes in Lebanon

By RICHARD BEESTON

YASSIR Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, yesterday faced the ignominious task of adding military defeat to the litany of political and economic setbacks he has suffered in the past few months as a result of his support for Iraq during the Gulf war.

The squalid one and two-storey breeze-block and corrugated iron buildings of the Ein el-Hilweh and Miyeh Miyeh Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon might not be much to look at. However, in the rapidly diminishing

reserve of PLO assets, they represented until this week the one domain left in the Middle East where Mr Arafat's rule went undisputed for the past six years.

After three days of heavy fighting between Lebanese army troops and Palestinian guerrillas for control of the hills overlooking the camps and the nearby port of Sidon, it became clear yesterday that PLO control of this slice of southern Lebanon was coming to a close.

Reports from the area suggested that the once powerless

Lebanese army had succeeded, under orders from the new Syrian-backed government, in capturing most of the main Palestinian positions east of Sidon, where the bulk of the PLO's military infrastructure was located. The 6,000 PLO fighters in Sidon represented the last vestiges of a force that once dominated southern Lebanon, Muslim west Beirut, and the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli.

Mr Arafat tried a desperate last effort yesterday to galvanise international support for the beleaguered Palestinians

and to stop the fighting, appealing to Britain, France and the Soviet Union to intercede. But he must have known before he made the call that no regional or world powers are prepared to lift a finger for the PLO in the Middle East, which has seen its fortunes shrink to an all-time low since the Gulf war.

● Sidon: Lebanese troops blasted the Ein el-Hilweh and Miyeh Miyeh camps with artillery and mortar bombs yesterday. First reports said at least eight people were killed in the fighting. (Reuters)

Kuwaitis hold onto weapons

Kuwait City — Kuwait's vast arsenal of illegally held weapons remained relatively untouched yesterday, in spite of the expiry of a postponed deadline for handing them over (Christopher Walker writes). A 15-year jail sentence has now been introduced for illegal possession.

Western diplomats estimated that more than 100,000 weapons, including anti-tank guns, rocket launchers, hand grenades, machineguns and automatic rifles, were being concealed by both Kuwaitis and Palestinians in spite of threatened house-to-house searches. Most of the weapons were seized from the fleeing Iraqi army during the Gulf war. Their existence, combined with the tension between the Kuwaitis and the 170,000 Palestinians, accused of sympathising with President Saddam Hussein, raises the prospect of armed conflict.

"We are still struggling to recover the weapons, but it is hard," said Lieutenant-Colonel Saleh al-Mashaan, deputy police spokesman, after the deadline had passed.

Israeli killed

Jerusalem — Guerrillas fired guns and anti-tank missiles at an Israeli look-out post on Mount Hermon, killing an Israeli soldier, the military command said. The guerrillas fled towards Syria, but it was unclear whether Syria was involved. The clash was the first on Israel's border with Syria since 1985. (AP)

Multiparty bill

Baghdad — Iraq's national assembly began debating a bill to allow new political parties. But the government al-Jumhuriya newspaper said only the ruling Baath party would operate in the army and security services. (Reuters)

Tehran visit

Paris — President Mitterrand has accepted an invitation to visit Iran from President Rafsanjani and will travel to Tehran in the autumn, French officials said. (Reuters)

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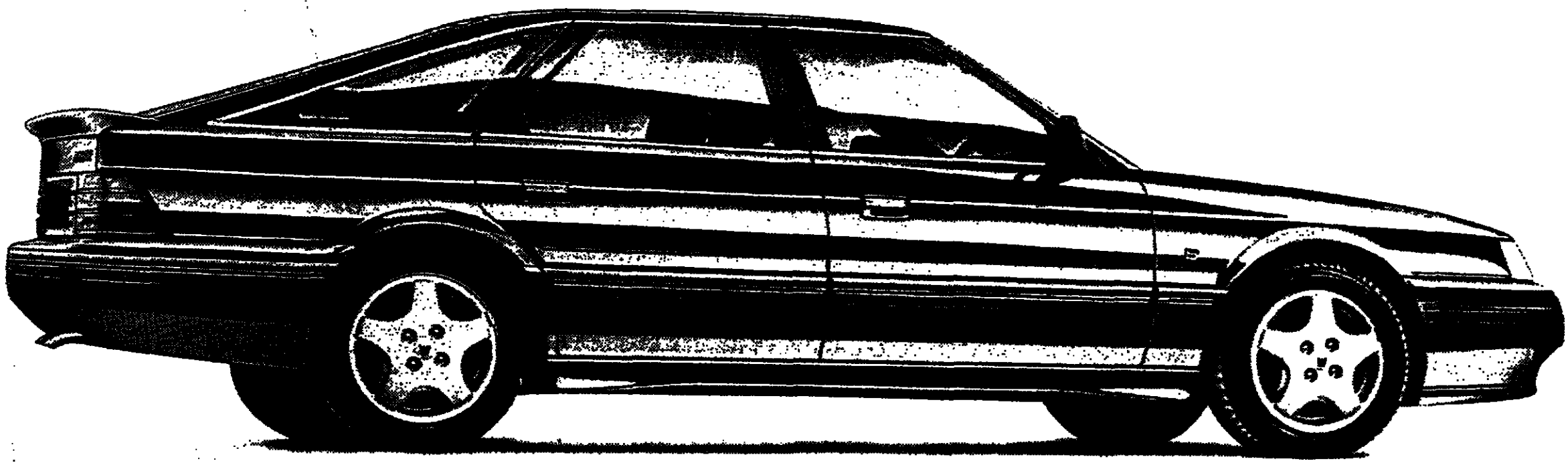
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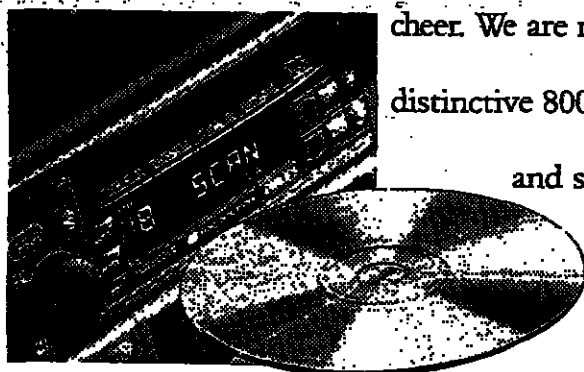
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Are conferences abroad vital to the medical profession? Liz Gill reports on flying doctors

What your doctor could learn in Bali

Mothers at Douglas Garvie's practice in Newcastle-under-Lyme who find their babies' development record contains instructions for treating diarrhoea with home-made salt and sugar solutions should thank the family welfare system in the mountains of Bali.

The use of such records to convey health tips as well as basic information was an idea Dr Garvie, the chairman of the World Organisation of Family Doctors, picked up during a recent conference on the island. He cites it as an example of the benefits such get-togethers offer beyond formal business. He was guest speaker at the event, organised by the Indonesian College of Family Physicians. "In countries like Britain we sometimes tend to think we have nothing more to learn, but you can pick up a great deal by going to other places."

Trips overseas by members of the medical profession are, however, frequently seen in a less charitable light. Peter Griffiths, the chief executive of the new Guy's hospital trust, voiced a widely held suspicion last month when he launched an attack on "jet-setting" consultants who "spend too much time on international travel and not enough time in the hospital".

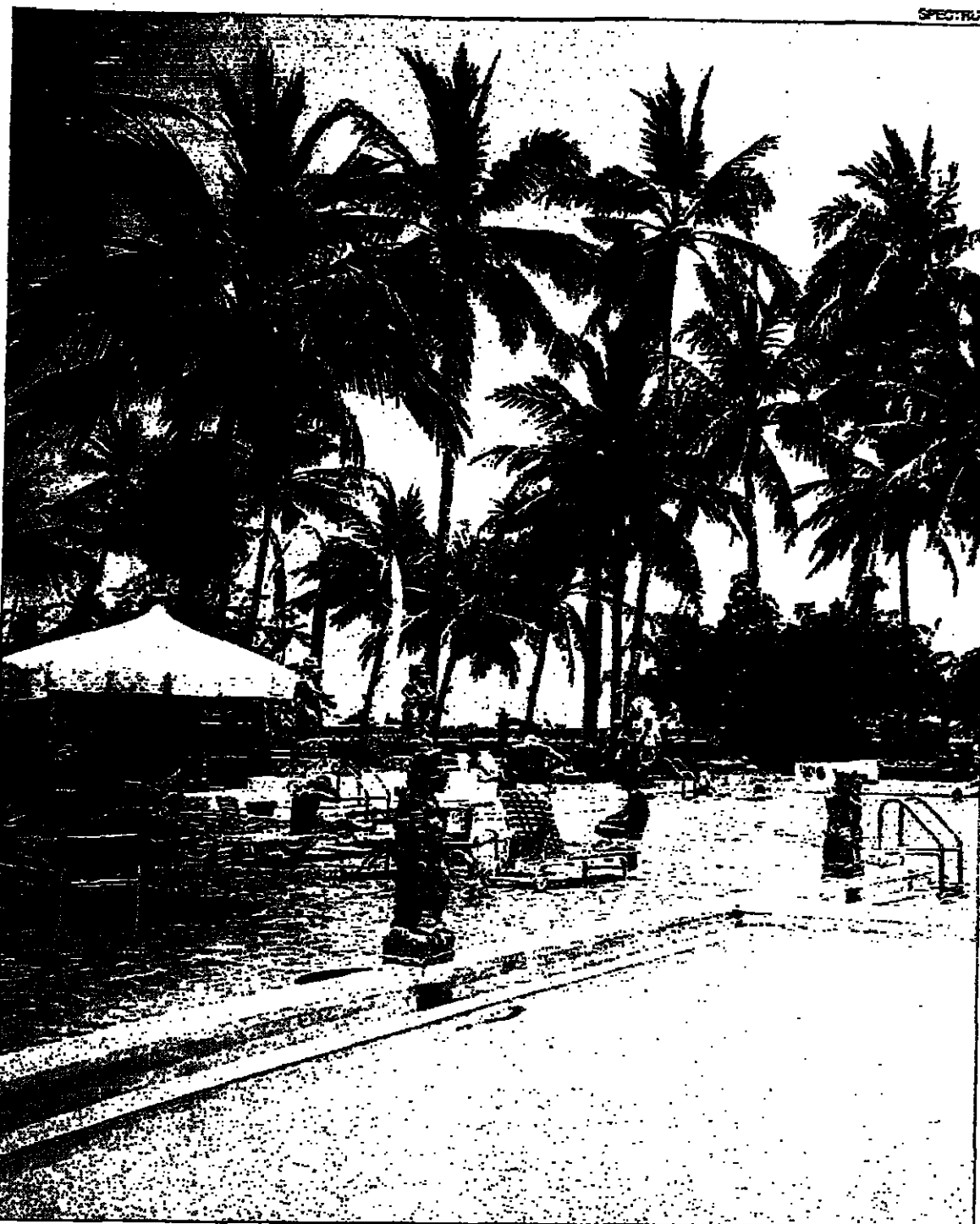
'Medicine is all about exposure, to patients, colleagues and to the public'

Certainly there are plenty of opportunities for travel. Julian Primett, an independent publisher, produces *World Medical Conference*, mailed to specialist organisations, which lists more than 600 events classified by both subject and country. This month alone, Mr Primett includes emergency medicine in San Diego, epidemiology in Cape Town, microsurgery in Bordeaux, liver transplants in Milan, psychosomatic medicine in Rio de Janeiro, neurology in Tokyo and orthopaedics in Singapore. "Of course, conventions are held in pleasant places, that is where conference centres are built," Mr Primett says.

The United Kingdom, he says, is doing reasonably well, with more than 60 venues listed this year, but it could be promoted better. "A purpose-built medical conference centre attached to a major teaching hospital would be a big revenue earner." The BMA's annual meetings, such as the one held this week in Inverness, always take place in the UK. The association also runs a scientific meeting every year which can move to different countries. This year's will be held in Perth, Western Australia.

John Irvine, an independent science policy analyst, believes the nature of modern science makes travel essential. "The number of peers in your specialist field may be quite small, so you have to travel to meet one another," he says. He also believes it has been established that "the development and transfer of new knowledge takes place most effectively through informal person-to-person contact, much more so than by reading books or papers, or even attending lectures... Trying to stop or trim it is short-sighted and silly."

Dr Owen Epstein, a consultant gastroenterologist and clinical tutor at the Royal Free hospital, London, believes doctors return "intellectually invigorated" from conferences. Research, he says, is the life blood of



Pooling knowledge in Bali: conferences in exotic locations can bring unexpected benefits to British medicine

academic consultants, those paid by a university who also treat patients in a teaching hospital. "It is also important for other non-academic consultants in the NHS to have this interaction. Just going along with your own work can be very isolating."

He goes to three or four events a year at home and abroad, each lasting for two or three days. Junior colleagues are often sent to learn new developments or techniques in the field, and everyone who goes shares what they have learnt with the team. The BMA has no guidelines on what would be an acceptable level of conference going. "The criterion is simply that cover must be arranged without over-burdening colleagues," a spokesman says.

"In my experience it is rare for a clinic to be cancelled or a patient left in the hands of a junior doctor," Dr Epstein says. "We always take it in turns to mind the shop."

There are, he admits, career pressures to appear at symposia or address conferences. "Medicine is all about exposure, to your patients, your colleagues, the public. But a medical conference is a tough audience. You will be told in no uncertain terms if your work is atrocious."

Some are sponsored entirely by

drug companies who will pay doctors' travelling, accommodation and hospitality expenses.

Lavish spending is much rarer nowadays, though, partly because of the recession but mainly because of the code of practice drawn up several years ago by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), which forbids excessive or disproportionate hospitality. "The days of going on the Orient Express are gone," Dr Epstein says. "Doctors now are likely to be bribed with nothing more than a notepad and pen." An EC move to introduce legislation forbidding any hospitality at all, however, is being opposed by the ABPI.

The majority of doctors pay for the trips themselves, sometimes offsetting the cost against tax as a business expense, or drawing from hospital study budgets or grants. Dr Garvie accepts that there are "professional conference-goers. There will always be people who abuse the system, but most are very responsible."

Conferences do not account for all foreign travel. In some cases clients hire British health service personnel via the NHS Overseas Enterprises

division for specific projects. The NHS earned £1 million this way last year.

There is, of course, nothing to say that doctors cannot have fun while they are attending a conference. About a third take their partners (always at their own expense) to interesting locations, and Dr Garvie adds: "You obviously do not go all the way to somewhere like Bali to sit in a conference hall and then come straight home."

According to Dr Clive Richards, the author of a King's Fund Centre report on doctors' health, there is a widespread antipathy to the notion of doctors enjoying themselves.

This disapproval led to the abandoning of schemes which offered GPs the chance to fulfil their educational requirements in pleasant surroundings. Under the new system of GP contracts, practitioners must attend a number of postgraduate courses to qualify for some £2,000 a year of their salary. "In the spring there were some courses held in glamorous ski resorts," Dr Richards says. "The courses were monitored and said to meet all the educational criteria, but because the doctors had the chance to ski as well it was somehow felt they were letting the side down. So they were stopped."

zebra embryo inside a horse, and out will come a perfectly formed zebra. "We can see that the embryo can be a whole species different, and the mother will still not reject it," Dr Allen says. "But there is one exception. If we try to put a donkey embryo into a horse it is usually rejected. If, however, we immunise the mother with white blood cells from the embryo's parents, all goes well. What we are doing now is looking at how this protective mechanism works."

Other eminent doctors in the field of human reproduction are sceptical about the role of immunological defects in pregnancy failure. Professor Robert Winston at Hammer-smith hospital says: "As yet there is no hard evidence or statistical significance in the work carried out at St Mary's. The arguments are compelling but unproven, and there is no doubt that the main cause of pregnancy failure is chromosomal abnormality. Besides, pregnancy in the horse is very different from in the human and we have to be wary of over-interpretation. I see the importance of Dr Allen's work to immunology in general, and in his specialist field, but its contribution to the field of human reproduction is unproven. I doubt if the immunological treatments carried out at St Mary's are anything more than a placebo. I suppose the bottom line is that one of my patients, who had recurrent abortions, tried immunological treatment and it simply didn't work."

SALLY RICHARDSON
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MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttford

Upsetting stomachs

UNUSUAL hazards of food have figured in the news this week. John Woolley, a 55-year-old Wiltshire cowman, has pleaded that even the sight of an orange being peeled, let alone its smell or taste, can drive him to such a fury that he issues threats to the person eating it.

In London at a luncheon given for the United Nations high commissioner for refugees, Sadako Ogata, the guests were served strawberries with lashings of cream and salt rather than sugar. Mrs Ogata, who is Japanese, politely ate her strawberries with apparent relish, but others present were still complaining of symptoms two days later. Finally in Wales, Rhuddlan council reported that seven people who had a Chinese meal suffered partial paralysis from a surfeit of monosodium glutamate.

The diplomats' symptoms will pass as memory of the meal fades. Mr Woolley's problems are more interesting: despite the headlines he was not suffering allergy in the scientific sense of the word, although allergy to citrus fruits is fairly common. Mr Woolley, it appears, is a victim of what is technically known as a compulsive urge, in his case complicated by a difficulty in controlling the aggression that is sometimes associated with it.

Many compulsive urges,



such as the obsessive checking of light switches, are relatively harmless, but some compulsions induce in the patient a desire to attack or aggress. Fortunately this impulse is usually resisted.

Most compulsive urges and phobias can be helped by behavioural therapy, but skilled clinical diagnosis is also needed to exclude the possibility that the compulsive urge is not a symptom of schizophrenia, manic depression, temporal lobe epilepsy, or an organic brain lesion such as a tumour or infection.

The Welsh diners were

suffering from Kwok's disease, named after Dr R.H.M. Kwok who, in 1968, described a sensation of numbness in the back of the head, spreading to the arms, and accompanied by generalised weakness, flushing, and palpitations which became manifest 20 minutes after eating Chinese food which has been overlaid with the taste enhancer, monosodium glutamate. Lesser effects from monosodium glutamate, even if it has only been added to food in the correct proportions, present as hangover-type symptoms.

Sleeping problems

COULD Wing Commander David Farquhar's carelessness in leaving the Gulf battle plans in his car be attributed to the long-term effects of benzodiazepines, the sleeping drugs he was taking so that, although over-tense and over-stretched, he was still able to snatch a few hours' sleep?

Benzodiazepines are divided into short, intermediate or long-acting categories depending on the number of hours' sedation they induce. Those with a short action usually give less than six hours' sleep. Temazepam, on which Wing Cdr Farquhar relied, is an intermediate-acting drug. All benzodiazepines can give rise to a hangover next day, but the mood can also be affected in other ways. Some patients become in-

appropriately carefree, doing or saying things they later regret; others are depressed or aggressive. The anxiety level the following day may actually be increased after taking a benzodiazepine at night.

Benzodiazepines should be used only when a night's sleep is essential, and then only intermittently. They should not be prescribed for the phobic, the obsessive

or the depressed. Despite the adverse publicity benzodiazepines receive, most people can take them without serious side-effects. Indeed, Professor Mitchell Balter from Boston, Massachusetts, told a recent conference that in any country the number of people complaining of problems with benzodiazepines was proportional to the media cover given to them.

Biting criticism of repellent

JUST as the holiday season approaches and families prepare to move to midge and mosquito-ridden destinations, the Consumers' Association has warned that insect repellents containing diethyltoluamide (DEET) should be treated with greater circumspection than they are now, particularly when used to protect young children. The association complains that only preparations which are 100 per cent DEET are accompanied by a warning, even though less strong preparations (most solutions are 50 or 75 per cent strength) can also cause serious skin irritation. The association quotes two cases in which it is alleged that children under five developed encephalitis following the use of DEET. It



has long been recommended, even for adults, that preparations containing DEET should not be applied to skin near eyes, mucous membranes, or in the moist, sweaty skin surfaces such as around the elbows, behind the knees, under the arms or in the groin, where it can cause severe reactions or blistering.

Horse sense on a pregnancy puzzle?

Vets studying equine fertility think their findings could help pregnant women to avoid trouble in the early stages

If you were told that an explanation of pregnancy failure in women could possibly be found in the rear end of a horse, you might think it a joke. But an ingenious New Zealander, Dr Twink Allen, and a team of veterinary scientists working at the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association's equine fertility unit in Newmarket, in collaboration with specialists at St Mary's hospital in London, are perfectly serious.

Dr Allen has been researching equine fertility in England for the last 24 years, starting with a PhD at Cambridge Veterinary School. "I would now venture to suggest," he says, "that the horse may be the animal to tell us about pregnancy failure in women." Professor Richard Beard, a consultant obstetrician at St Mary's, praises Dr Allen's work - "it is extremely important in helping us sort out the immunological puzzle of pregnancy".

This puzzle is the communication between a mother and the fertilised egg within her. Dr Allen explains: "At a precise time in early pregnancy, in all species, the developing egg sends out a biochemical message called the maternal recognition of pregnancy signal. The message says 'I'm here. Don't come into heat otherwise I'll fall out.' This happens about seven or eight days after fertilisation in the human, 14 to 16 days in the horse. If the signal doesn't get through, the egg's had it. Ten per cent of thoroughbred mares lose their foals in the first 100 days, often because the signal has failed."

Dr Allen and his team are

trying to decode that signal and learn the whole language of immunology in the early days of pregnancy. "The horse is a fascinating case study, because there occurs in mares a reaction that is bizarre and unique." This reaction is a process of embryo implantation in the uterus which is peculiarly aggressive. "What happens is that selected cells from the foetal membranes inject themselves into the mother's tissues. That's a very dangerous thing for the foetus to do because it is genetically half the mother, half the father, and that half from the father is immunologically different from the mother. In theory the mother should reject that foreign tissue. The fact that she doesn't is the riddle we hope to solve."

In any other part of our bodies foreign cells are destroyed, but in the uterus an immunological protection mechanism usually dictates acceptance rather than rejection.



Well bred: successful result at the Newmarket unit

"If we can understand how that mechanism works in the horse, that will help us to understand how it works in the human, the rat, the elephant and any other species," Dr Allen says. The knowledge may help towards understanding not only pregnancy but also the complexities of transplant surgery - the matching of one individual to another.

Dr Allen explains the correlation between research with women and with horses. "There is a population of women who conceive nor-

mally but repeatedly miscarry. What doctors have found is that if these women change their partner or for some reason have a blood transfusion, they will then carry a child to term. The doctors at St Mary's have also discovered that if you immunise those women with white blood cells from the husband, or a third party, that stimulates the mother to make antibodies that somehow protect the pregnancy. Our research is helping us to understand this because the different species of *Equus* - horse, donkey, zebra - will interbreed happily, so taking the immunological differences between mother and foetus to a maximum."

It is possible to mate a female horse with a male donkey to produce a mule, or a female horse with a zebra to produce a zebromule. Further, it is possible to mate two horses and transfer the foetus to gestate inside a donkey. It is even possible to put a pure

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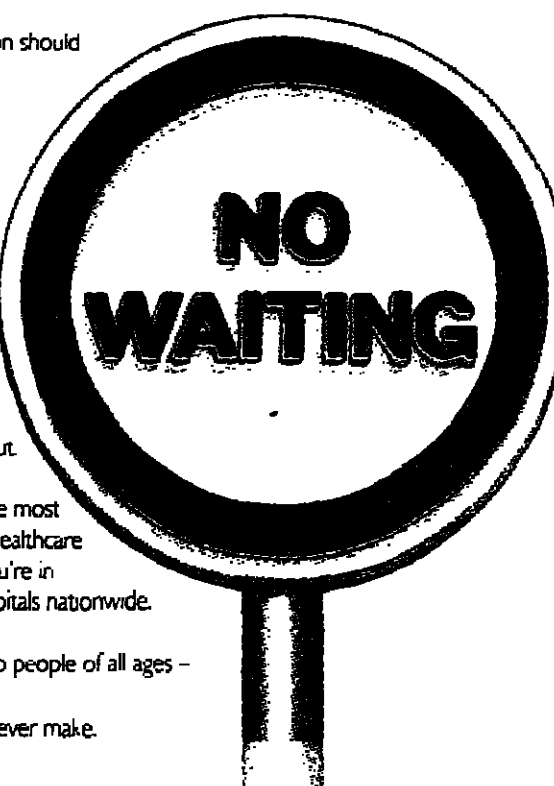
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Tangled webs in see of Barchester

Victoria Glendinning on a sex 'n' praying romance of the Church of England

Joanna Trollope is on a winning streak. But her narrative skill is running away with her. Look, no hands — and in this book no real pain, or real conflict, or real sex, or real fear, or real God. No real jokes or fantasy, either. *The Rector's Wife* is pure escapism, of an intelligent if unadventurous kind.

Nevertheless, I would have killed anyone who wrested this novel from my hands. If it's compulsive reading even for the heathen, it's going to be hidden under hassocks, slipped under surplices, and devoured during devotions by clergymen and their wives throughout the land. It is all rather milky tea, like a Barbara Pym novel, though Joanna Trollope has a much stronger grasp than Pym on the tangled web of family life.

Anna Bouvier's husband Peter is the unpaid rector of a rural parish — Loxford with Quindale, Church End, New End and Snead. They originally came to Loxford from a Birmingham slum parish, full of hope. Now Peter, at 45, has failed to be made Archdeacon, so is fated to remain rector of Loxford with Quindale etc., etc. for ever. Careerwise, this is a dead end. Anna, who had been sustained by the hope of change, is fed up with being so poor. Socially, she feels imprisoned. As the rector's wife, she is a function, not a person. "I can't be an individual, only someone relative to Peter, to the parish, to the church." "You and Daddy seem to expect a freedom for yourselves you have no intention of awarding me."

Anna and her creator do go on rather about this, long after we have got the message. "I'm so sick of being limited, tyrannised. Whenever I turn to try and get out of the cage, someone is offended or upset, says I'm defying them or humiliating them." Anna defies the parish and humiliates her husband by taking a job stacking shelves at the supermarket in the nearest town, ostensibly to pay for her son's trip to India and her daughter's school fees. Joanna Trollope is a certified expert on contemporary village life, so I suppose she must be right about the horrendous shock-waves caused in the



Joanna Trollope, who paints all things not bright and beautiful, but steamy and claustrophobic, for modern clergy wives, pale epigone of her ancestor's Mrs Proudie

village, in 1991, by the news that the rector's wife is working in a supermarket.

Anna herself, the focus of disapproval, envy and desire, is not solid enough as a character for the emotional weight she has to carry in this novel. We are meant to be sorry for her, but she is extremely irritating, and I was incredulous when her illicit lover — admittedly an academic — found that "she excited him terribly, her personality quite as much as her body. He felt he was on some marvellous quest..."

Church chat is intriguing. How about the special, pastoral, somehow threatening use of the verb "to speak to"? "I ought to — speak to people," says Anna, all quicely, extricating herself from a conversation

after a church service.

The clergymen in the story continually speak of "speaking to" someone else, with an implication of quite embarrassing confessional intimacies.

Anna is fortunate in that she has no shortage of concerned chaps keen to speak to her in this confidential way. One of her moans has been that men do not see clergy wives as women. But, in her hour of need, she is pursued with brandy and kisses by the brash, blue-blazer owner of the Old Rectory; she establishes a tender understanding with the sensitive, caring new Archdeacon; and she jumps happily into

THE RECTOR'S WIFE

By Joanna Trollope
Bloomsbury, £14.99

bed with the Archdeacon's equally sensitive, caring brother. Three unattached, susceptible men at once! We needn't be too

sorry for these clergy wives after all. Anna's unfortunate husband, whose fate I must not reveal, is a pinched, disappointed man, constantly rushing out on parish business (taking the car, of course), in order to feel needed, and to avoid facing up to family stress: "How much easier and publicly commendable it is to devote yourself to the parish, however demanding, than to a wife having a nervous breakdown at home."

He seems to me to be in a far tighter cage than Anna. But her problem is opened up to represent the problem of all rural clergy wives, with recommendations that the top end of the church should find out, and care more, about what goes on in country parishes. No one after reading this book (or before reading it for that matter, which is why it can't set the Synod on fire) would disagree with Mrs Richardson, the colonel's lady, talking to Anna under the influence of afternoon gin about "male institutions" such as the church and the army: "Fill a man with notions of duty and obligation and then expect the wife to feel privileged to fall in with him. Makes me sick."

WOMEN

Anne Barnes

TWO GIRLS, FAT AND THIN

By Mary Gaitskill
Chatto & Windus, £13.99

MARIE ENSNARED

By Elisabeth Barille
Translated by Hubert Gibbs

Quartet, £12.95

THE LAST ROOM

By Elean Thomas
Virago, £13.99

"EVERY loneliness is a pinacle," says Dorothy, a very fat girl, as she shuts the door on her first meeting with Justine, a very thin girl. Both have been brought up in strained suburban families, roughly in the mid west of America, and both have been victims of sexual abuse as children. Dorothy sees loneliness as a positive achievement, a luxurious opportunity to define her sense of herself, but for Justine it is a defence against the awfulness of other people, and a necessary condition for the rich development of her sexual

It doesn't seem much fun being a woman

fantasies. In *Two Girls, Fat and Thin* Mary Gaitskill manages to make each character both pathetic and dignified. She shows them scarred but not ruined by their childhoods, and although she can be bitter about family life, her lack of sentimentality allows her to be very funny about the way people build up their

fantasies and then knock them down afterwards. Marie, the beautiful and well behaved Frenchwoman in *Marie Ensnared*, is a lot less amusing about her fantasies. Hers are based on the idea that if you have a lover who is good-looking, intelligent, and successful, and whose company you enjoy, the best thing

to do is to put this relationship at risk by becoming a prostitute on your spare afternoons. It seems an old-fashioned idea based on the sort of hypocrisy between the sexes now out of date and pointless. It is never quite clear why Marie feels the need to be ensnared, or how she can be bothered with all the phone

booths and changes of costume that spare time prostitution requires. Although written and translated with terse elegance, this is a thin book based on a thin idea. Far more meaningful is the way in which a Jamaican girl, Putus, is ensnared and exploited in Elean Thomas's *The Last Room*, which is her first novel. Putus's mother is determined that she will gain a good education and bring the family finally out of the last room of slavery. So, after a happy early childhood, Putus is sent away from her home to be nearer to her studies and,

incidentally, to make room for her mother's new husband. In her loneliness she falls pregnant in order to emigrate to England, to fulfil her destiny and take her place in the world. Elean Thomas uses the inventiveness and directness of Jamaican language to emphasise both the vitality of Jamaican culture and the bewilderment with which it has often been received in other countries. She has deftly picked out the problems of moving from one culture to another, and the need to have a firm sense of one's background in order to settle.

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Sublime wild Strines

WERE all Australian women like Dorothy Hewett, Dame Edna, with her needling satire, would have no pretensions to prick Luck, industry (in both senses) and natural talent have made Hewett one of Australia's most significant literary figures. Born to rural comfort and accessible education in Western Australia, she went urban, married a bloke, eloped east with another, had his kids, joined the Communist party, worked in Sydney's dark satanic woolen mills, left the party in 1968, and all the time wrote, wrote, wrote. Fifteen plays are listed, and since they are not yet available in the UK, one may take hearsay evidence that they are theatrically viable and polemical in nature. Her one novel, *Bobbin Up* (yes, the pun is deliberate) is, as she explains in an excellent introduction, thinly veiled autobiography, while *Wild Card*, named as another, overlaps it, but is also richly different.

Read in straight succession they may prove a bit much for the non-Australian to absorb, but her poetry is a rewarding contrast. Wilde's remark about "everything in common except language" might be applied to both prose books as they are written in white Australian, but it is pointless to wince, because the language is consistently regional, which here means the inherited ruggedness of Strine mixed with Strine refined. Until she lets rip in passionate, self-forgetting narrative, Hewett tends to scene-set with sentences that seem longer than Proust's, although less good. But, having carped at this, one must defend her because, unlike Patrick White's, her verbal jewellery is functional before decorative. It is simply maddening that in prose she is so good that she could, one suspects, be better; nonetheless she must be read.

What touches the sublime is Hewett's poetry. Apart from the genuinely great Australian poetry written by Aborigines, there is no tradition, as in older cultures. There is an early bush-balled school canonised by default, some later would-like-to-be-English stuff of merit, and a strong Irish-descended school, which weakened as the taste of the Liffey faded from ancestral memory.

Good poetry is often born in negative reaction to the social or political systems that surround the poet, rather as the greatest violin-playing came from the ghettos of eastern Europe. As the court jester had unique licence to mock the monarch in his or her presence, so does the poet use his or her gifts to improve or in some way change the established order.

SO WITH Hewett's poetry. Her ancestors, the wise men from the north, sailed to Australia bearing gifts of alcohol, syphilis and smallpox to the world's oldest extant democracy. Like Margaret Thatcher bringing St Francis of Assisi to Downing Street, they commandeered the best land while preaching the criminality of theft. They extolled holy poverty, taught the technique of undetectable lying, and imposed various Christs on the spiritual Dreamtime that had been a demonstrable truth for more than 100,000 years. Dorothy Hewett is an Alice in Wonderland snared in this, her inherited tradition, and the poet within her sings like an eloquent voice in Rama:

Malcolm Williamson
SELECTED POEMS

By Dorothy Hewett
Bloodaxe, £14.95
BOBBIN UP
By Dorothy Hewett
Virago, £4.95
WILD CARD
An Autobiography, 1923-1958
By Dorothy Hewett
Virago, £12.99

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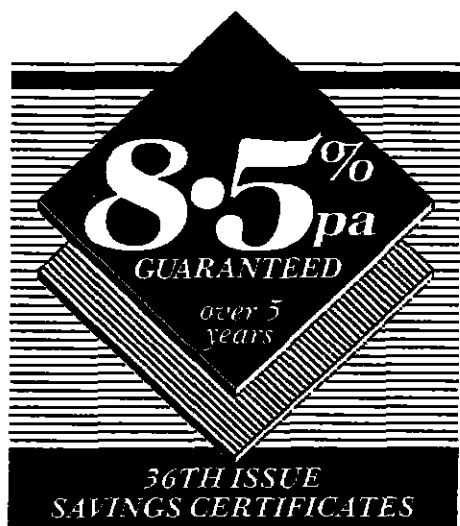
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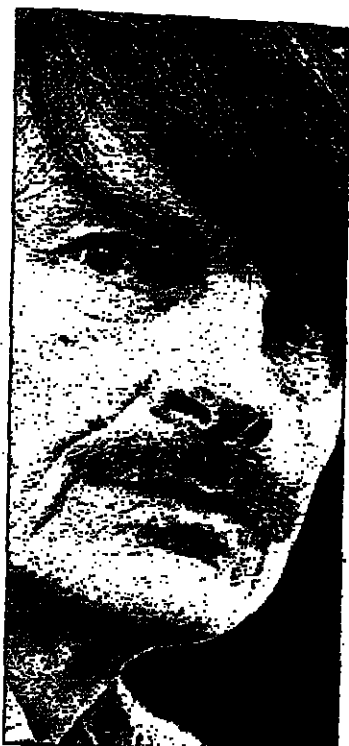
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GOLLANCZ



Andrei Tarkovsky: genius tormented by bureaucracy

'This beautiful country has been totally fouled up'

David Robinson examines the tormented writings of the Russian film-maker Andrei Tarkovsky, now being published in Britain

Andrei Tarkovsky's troubles began in 1966 with his film *Andrei Rublev*, the story of a 15th century icon painter. After that, the 20 years of life left to him were rarely free from the torments devised by a hostile and jealous Moscow film establishment.

Coincidentally with the release of *Andrei Rublev* (at the Renoir Cinema from July 12), Tarkovsky's journals are published for the first time in English, as *Time Within Time*. They are an extraordinary, tragicomic revelation of the personal agonies of a beleaguered genius.

Tarkovsky was born in 1932. His father was a distinguished poet, his mother an actress. He was admitted to the State Institute of Cinematography in 1954, and his first feature, *Ivan's Childhood* (1962), won the Golden Lion at the Venice Festival and instantly launched his international reputation.

Andrei Rublev (1966), his second film, was criticised for its dark

view of Russian history and was not cleared for export until 1973. *Solaris* (1972), based on a science fiction story, had an easier passage; but there were more problems with *Stalker*, his last Soviet film. In 1982 he made *Nostalgia* (which was about precisely that) in Italy. The Soviet authorities refused to let Tarkovsky's young son join his parents abroad ("My God, what barbarians they are!"), and in July 1984 he announced his intention to remain outside Russia. His last film, *The Sacrifice*, was made in Sweden.

The journals are a remarkable outpouring of frustrated creation and private miseries. Tarkovsky himself never ceases to marvel at the paradox that everywhere else in the world he is revered and his films win every prize, yet at home he is at the mercy of petty bureaucrats who frustrate his work, prevent him from travelling, attack his films and even contemplate connected criminal charges against him. He has no

doubt of his own worth: "I suppose it's better to be a genius than a nonentity, all else being equal."

His roof leaks, his dacha burns down, the electricity is cut off, his debts mount. He and his wife and son are generally ill. He keeps careful count of the 50 or 100 roubles he can earn by talking to clubs and unions. Buying a sofa is a huge financial undertaking. "Oh, Lord! Will our troubles ever end?"

All this is interspersed with plans for new films, mystical speculations, reflections on art and life, quotations noted down from his phenomenally wide reading. He devours Pliny, Tolstoy, Montaigne. Life still holds some pleasures: digging ditches, making fences; planting a garden; watch-

ing and teaching his baby son. He records all his dreams. They are vivid and fierce. Not surprisingly, most are nightmares. He dreams of being warned by a polar bear, of a beautiful brown cow among the Moscow traffic, of his wife being unfaithful. The worst is when he dreams he is in the Politburo and has to meet the other members. "Last night I dreamed about Brezhnev, he was talking to me amiably. Dio Mio!"

He has little time for other people's films. Buñuel's *Tristana* is "unbelievably vulgar", two of Janaco's films are "monstrous rubbish". He does however admire Breton, Parajanov and a then new Russian director Alexander Sokurov - a fellow-sufferer

who has himself only won international recognition since glasnost.

Tarkovsky's view of the world was pessimistic. As early as 1970 he complained, "Since the war, culture has somehow collapsed, fallen apart. All over the world. Along with spiritual criteria. And without culture, society naturally runs wild. God knows where it's all going to end."

The Soviet Union was irredeemable. "There has never before been such universal, total repudiation of order. They have all become inveterate liars, untruthful, crooks. Life is impossible."

A decade later, "It's impossible to live here. This beautiful country has been totally fouled up. They've made it menial, destitute and lawless."

Tarkovsky kept his diary to the very end, when he was terminally ill with cancer. In Paris on December 5, 1986, "The Japanese are

organising some sort of relief fund... They find it impossible to understand how such a famous director can be so poor." The next day, "I must talk to Andriushka [his 15-year-old] about cinema and literature, find out what he knows." On December 15, "I have no strength left for anything - that is the problem." This is the last entry: two weeks later he died.

The English edition of *Time Within Time*, published in Calcutta but now distributed in Britain, is a lively, literate translation by Kitty Hunter-Blair. To coincide with the publication, and the re-issue of *Andrei Rublev*, the ICA is presenting a Tarkovsky retrospective, which lacks *The Sacrifice*, but includes his rarely seen short, *The Steamroller and the Violin*, made when he was a film school student, and his Italian television documentary *Tempo di Viaggio*.

Time Within Time is distributed by Central Books of London (081-586 4854), price £25

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Hot property going quickly off the boil

Geoff Brown reviews Kim Basinger in *Too Hot to Handle*, a reissue of Orson Welles's *F for Fake*, and a German epic called *Joan of Arc of Mongolia*

Imagine yourself a Wardour Street film distributor with an embarrassment on your hands: an American film that reaped bad publicity even during shooting, that suffered prolonged post-production tinkering in a doomed effort to fix the defects, that sank like a stone after its initial box-office ripples. What do you do?

The first thing to arrange is a little light hoodwinking. You change the title. So *The Marrying Man* - a painful romantic comedy credited to the award-winning Neil Simon, and notorious for its on-set brawling between the stars, Kim Basinger and Alec Baldwin - becomes reborn as *Too Hot to Handle* (15, Cannon Haymarket).

The next step is riskier. You dump your problem child into cinemas when you think nobody is looking: during Wimbledon fortnight, say. But what if the weather refuses to co-operate? If it rains, and people seek indoor entertainment, *Too Hot to Handle* lies uncomfortably exposed.

For nearly two hours, this dreary film spins a contorted yarn about a playboy's roller-coaster ride through the late Forties and Fifties with a sultry lounge singer - the former moll of gangster Bugsy Siegel. In 1948, Siegel forces the passionate pair to cement their one-night stand with marriage vows. Over the next eight years, they divorce, remarry, divorce again, and marry again, buffeted by fate and their fractious natures.

Baldwin plays the wastrel hero Charley, a toothpaste heir with an easy smile, a gift tongue, and - in Baldwin's hands - all the charm of a barracuda. Basinger, put through the wringer by her choreographer and vocal coach, turns the lounge singer Vicki into a grotesque caricature, juggling her hips and wriggling through Cole Porter in a doomed attempt to make the sexual temperature rise.

Around these bones cluster a gaggle of show business and hoodlum types, coming and going with bewildering speed as the film hurtles through the years. Simon - who has disowned the released print - apparently meant Charley's quartet of friends to remind audiences of Phil Spector, the songwriter. Sammy Cahn, MGM songbird Tony Martin, and baseball legend Leo Durocher. What smart patter there is, rests largely with supporting players, though the historical echoes are unlikely to register with today's young audiences; in any case, they lead the film nowhere.

The director, Jerry Rees - stumbling into the live-action market after his delightful animated feature *The Brave Little Toaster* - strengthens the gloom with drably shot conversation scenes and a shadow-haunted photographic style more suited to high drama. He should stick to directing toasters.

One rushes with relief to Orson Welles's impish just about art and forgery, *F for Fake* (ICA Cinema), revived after a ten-year absence from cinema screens. Since its completion in 1973, the prolific director of *Citizen Kane* continued his bizarre life, accepting awards for past glo-

ries, singing the praises of sherry and fishfingers in the world's dubbing studios, while struggling to finance his own projects. Only one feature - a rarely-seen documentary, *Filming Othello* - surfaced before he died in 1985. For the moment, then, *F for Fake* stands as his last testament. But this is not any grand, autumnal statement: it joyously celebrates the artist as charlatan and king of hocus-focus. The Welles who made this hectic frolic from miscellaneous footage was the Welles who contrived the dazzling *March of Time* take-off in *Citizen Kane*, who saved Mairlene Dietrich in half in *Follow the Boys*, who conjured up so many fantasies at the microphone that America swallowed an invasion from Mars.

Seated before an editing table, the omnipresent Welles sardonically guides us through a whirlwind of images centred on the exploits of two modern forgers, both residents of Ibiza. Painter Elmyr de Hory, preening and twinkling before the camera, knocks out a Modigliani in a matter of hours: much of his work is acquired by museums ("If they hang there long enough, they become real," he says). Smooth-talking writer Clifford Irving follows his biography of the faker de Hory with a biography built round fake interviews with Howard Hughes, the world's best-

known recluse. Tales are told of Hughes himself, walking through Las Vegas with Kleenex boxes for shoes, of ham sandwiches wrapped in brown paper and left in a tree; but are these stories fake, too?

"Reality," Welles declares, "is the toothbrush waiting for you in its glass at home, a bus ticket, a cheque, and the grave." Whatever his flights of indulgence and achievement, Welles's art, from first to last, triumphantly ignored life's mundane facts for the devious wonders of imagination.

Unlike Orson - a former painter, avant-gardist and director of conundrums with titles such as *Dorian Gray in the Mirror of the Yellow Press* - has long been a darling of the Berlin Film Festival. During the next fortnight the National Film Theatre tests the British waters with eight screenings of her intriguing *Joan of Arc of Mongolia*, a two-and-three-quarter-hour epic from 1989, ravishing to look at, poised on the borders of fiction and documentary.

She begins with a flourish of theatrical camp, as she establishes the passengers cosseted by luxury on a Trans-Siberian train, recreated in a riot of colours in a Berlin studio. Delphine Seyrig lends her enigmatic smile to her last screen role as Lady Windermere, an English anthropologist (no fan in sight). Other travellers include a Broadway star, a German botany teacher inseparable from her Beadecker, a tenor with epicurean tastes, and a backpacker - the Joan of the title, though she suffers neither voices nor burning at the stake.

Once the ladies switch to the Trans-Mongolian line and are led away captive by a Mongol tribe, the film ditches its cabaret style for an engrossing evocation of nomadic life in the steppes. Events later prove the tribesfolk might have strayed from *F for Fake*, but their rituals are staged with the solemn rigour that always suggests documentary objectivity. The first foreign filmmaker to be allowed to shoot inside Mongolia, Ottinger repays the honour with awesome landscapes, a feast of folklore, and a sensitive regard to cultural differences.



Doomed attempt to make the temperature rise: Kim Basinger as the chanteuse Vicki

Other July delicacies at the NFT include the films of actress-director Julia Solntseva, widow of the Soviet cinema giant Alexander Dovzhenko, who selflessly undertook to bring his unrealised projects to fulfilment after his death in 1956. *The Exhorted* Desna (showing on July 22) conjures up a Ukraine childhood with a magical array of nocturnal skies and pantheistic images, all bearing the authentic stamp of the Dovzhenko who directed the classic hymn to farm machinery, *Earth* (showing tomorrow).

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BRIEFING

London farewell

WHEN Dutch National Ballet comes to the Coliseum next week, the occasion marks more than just the company's first visit to London in seven years. It also marks the retirement of Rudi van Dantzig, artistic director for more than 20 years. As a tribute, the Amsterdam-based company is presenting the British premiere of his full-length *Romeo and Juliet*, choreographed in 1967 but recently redesigned. Van Dantzig is retiring to pursue a career as a novelist; he will be succeeded by the Royal Ballet's Wayne Eagling.

Melting pot

SHEFFIELD'S Crucible Theatre is planning not only to enlarge the present Crucible Studio from 250 to 400 seats, but also to base the Lindsay String Quartet there. First violinist Peter Cropper is to be artistic director for about 36 concerts a year, including jazz and folk. The studio is set to re-open next May.

Last chance...

THE new album by the Gipsy Kings, *Este Mundo*, is a bracing combination of racing rhythms, staccato strumming and hot-blooded Romany choruses, which sold 40,000 copies in the first three days of its British release. The French Romany flamenco guitarists end their current tour of England at the NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133) tonight, and at Wembley Arena (081-900 1234) tomorrow.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Have sax, will commission

WHEN he was 17, John Harle chose the saxophone because he could not find the breadth of expression he wanted on the clarinet. Now he carries composers in his train like a Pied Piper. Berio, Birtwistle, Berkeley and Muldowney have all responded to the call of this 35-year-old who has given the sax new credibility at conservatories and colleges up and down the land.

Gavin Bryars, Michael Nyman and Mike Westbrook are the latest composers to join the Harle repertoire. They are part of a commissioning programme of world premieres

Hilary Finch meets John Harle, a man of many reeds

centred on Harle's talents, and set up by the Bournemouth Sinfonietta. It threatens to turn summers in the South West into an electric storm which music-lovers in Devon, Cheltenham, Swanage and Swindon will not forget. The Bryars work (Swanage on Saturday, Andover on Sunday) is, in Harle's words, "18 minutes of slow-moving jazz-inspired string chords

with a very lemony soprano sax on top. The inspiration is Jules Verne, and the idea is that if two people see an eclipse of the sun at the same time, they will be drawn together."

Nyman has already composed a rewrite of "Where the Bee Sucks" for the Lamber. *Where the Bee Sucks* (Cheltenham July 13, Swindon July 14) continues those ideas in a full-blown concerto, "not just a piece for band with the sax doubling the top violin line". *Bean Rows and Blues Shots* by Westbrook (Swanage on Saturday, Swindon on July 14) incorporates a jazz rhythm section into the orchestra, and gives scope for Harle's own improvisatory skills.

At present Harle is working on his own settings of the Expressionist poet, Walter Mehring. That will be for a projected album of songs for Saxophone, Harle's own band, and an unnamed female singer. The three concerto commissions also integrate two sides of his work which, until recently, he kept apart. "It is hard to get the balance right, to stay true to both sides. It has taken time to arrive at clear concepts of each in order to carry on doing both."

The Bournemouth Sinfonietta has no such qualms. By launching a commissioning budget and by choosing its targets shrewdly, Tim Joss, the new concert director, has opened up recording and festival possibilities and eliminated a £50,000 loss. A band, until recently stuck in the English pastoral mode, is now pushing into Post-Modernism.

HILARY FINCH

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No more cabbages for eastern Europe's kings

With Yugoslavia at war, royal families are ready to reclaim their thrones, says Michael Binyon

After years of fading exile in Spain, Britain or Germany, amid a coterie of faithful retainers and impoverished former aristocrats, the royal families of eastern Europe are suddenly moving again in political circles that matter. And as the Balkans grapple with economic chaos, rising nationalism and the threat of political disintegration, the former monarchs appear to more and more people as the best guarantors of democracy, decency and continuity.

Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia gave evidence on Tuesday to the House of Commons, and yesterday presented himself to his warring countrymen as a symbol of national unity.

"These are the dying days of communism in my country," he told the *Today* programme. "My country needs a neutral figure, somebody who understands, who cherishes democracy. I am the person who understands. I was born in the West. I am the only one who is not tainted."

Tsar Simeon II of Bulgaria, who lost his country in 1946 when he was six, renewed his Bulgarian passport on hearing that the parliament in Sofia voted to hold a referendum on the monarchy on Saturday. The vote has since been cancelled — all parties agreed the issue was still too divisive — but

popular support is growing, and the former graduate of an American military academy, a descendant of Queen Victoria, may soon find himself again upon the throne he briefly occupied.

Former King Michael of Romania, aged 69, has also been watching events in the country he ruled as a brave young monarch in the second world war, who defied both the Nazis and the communists and remains the only surviving wartime head of state. He too has testified to the Euro-



Royal returns? Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia, Tsar Simeon of Bulgaria and ex-King Michael of Romania.

pean Parliament, and has watched with some anguish the bitter birth of democracy in his country. But his attempts to return have been premature: frustrated once by a sudden cancellation of his visa, he flew back briefly last December,

for the first time in 43 years, only to be detained and sent out of the country 12 hours later. Even the 6ft 5in King Leka I of Albania has lifted his sights from the South African veld where he has spent most of his life to the isolated land he left at two days old. He was virtually ignored in 1961 when he proclaimed himself king, and several who have met him fail to find any regal qualities. But after a timely call last year for the overthrow of communism, even his return now appears less fanciful

than in Enver Hoxha's day. The man who has made all their dreams possible is King Juan Carlos of Spain. It is his example of how a descendant of a historically unpopular royal house, brought up in exile, can embody a nation's democratic aspirations that has given credibility to all their claims that monarchy can heal and unify. Prince Alexander says only he can stand above the ethnic and religious passions now rending his country. Tsar Simeon of Bulgaria-Coburg-Gotha lives and works as a businessman in Madrid, where he can observe at close quarters the down-to-earth polit-

ical realism of the man who many Spaniards believe deserved a Nobel prize for his efforts to revive and then defend democracy in their country. Something of the Romantic image still hangs over the exiled monarchs. Even in Europe, their days seemed over as soon as they fell. *The Daily Chronicle* headlined a story in 1938: "So I bought a cabbage from a king." It was an account of how King Michael, who once owned 159 castles, was selling vegetables in Hertfordshire. Neither King Michael nor any of his royal peers now dream of riches. They want to return to save their struggling democracies. Many of their putative subjects look forward to the day.

Bernard Levin

I have never cared much for the epistolary novel, but I have recently read, with great delight, an exchange of correspondence which almost rivals *Clarissa* in the genre, and is hardly less enthralling.

Mr Norris McWhirter, one of two remarkable twins, is a man of many parts: it was he, for instance, with his brother Ross, who thought up *The Guinness Book of Records* (Ross was murdered by IRA bandits). But, as a writer, his interests are a powerful devotion to Conservatism and its ideals; he has been a Tory candidate for Parliament, and has spent a good deal of time and energy harrying Labour.

A publishing house with the unforgettable name of Bloodaxe Books not long ago put out, under the title *Dear Next Prime Minister*, an anthology of "Open Letters to Margaret Thatcher and Neil Kinnock". One of these Open Letters was by Norris McWhirter, addressed to Mr Kinnock, and for his theme Mr McWhirter had chosen Labour's policy on nuclear disarmament.

Now anyone who knows Mr McWhirter knows also that he is a bonny scrapper; it was no surprise to me, therefore, to find that his Open Letter began like this:

In April 1958, I took part in the first Aldermaston march. It was an experiment to see if people who advocate dismantling our defences nationally are equally pacific when confronted with political opposition locally. I soon had my answer: my car was attacked, its fender scratched and its occupants kicked and punched by the marchers.

The rest of the open letter consisted of the discussion of Labour's nuclear policy, referred to above. Mr McWhirter sent a copy of it to Mr Kinnock, asking the Labour leader to comment.

Exactly a month later, he got a reply, ostensibly from Mr Kinnock, but pp. Charles Clarke, with an apology for the delay. The rest of the letter read:

The policy set out in "Meet the Challenge, Make the Change" and "Looking at the Future" speaks for itself and is a rebuttal of your charges. In modern circumstances, no national Government could or should forswear negotiation as a means of reducing both conventional and non-conventional armaments.

You can practically hear Norris spit on his hands at that, because, as he took pleasure in pointing out, his letter to Mr Kinnock was written after the publication of "Meet the Challenge", and was indeed a comment on it; not even Kaufmann could argue that a rebuttal precedes what it is designed to rebut. Norris ends his letter:

If you and Mr Kinnock wish to get this matter at rest once and for all, all you have to do is give a straight answer to a single question: would a Labour government continue to possess some nuclear weapons as long as the Soviet Union or other countries continue to have them? Please may I have the answer to this question without further ado?

A mere 11 days then passed, and lo! an answer from Mr Clarke. (Note that his letter is no longer pp. Neil Kinnock, but fully his own, signature and all — there's glory for you.) The letter runs thus:

"Meet the Challenge. Make the Change" says (page 87) "Acting with the United States and the Soviet Union, we will place all of Britain's (sic) nuclear capacity into disarmament negotiations (sic) with the intention of eliminating it in concert with the superpowers". That statement is chrysalis (sic) clear, and we will not enter into negotiating hypotheses of variable realism.

(Note to Mr Clarke: do not try to write in what you think is an elevated manner if you do not know the meaning of the words you are using.)

Norris has several pairs of eyes, all in working order, and they had spotted a discrepancy in Mr Clarke's previous letter. Here is Norris, spotting it:

... You are misquoting your own policy document. What it actually says is that Labour would "... place all of Britain's nuclear capability into such disarmament negotiations with the intention of eliminating it in concert with action taken by the superpowers". This can mean one of two entirely different things.

It may mean that you would place all our nuclear weapons into the disarmament negotiations and eliminate them in concert with all the nuclear weapons of the superpowers.

However, it may also mean that you would place all our nuclear weapons into the disarmament negotiations and be willing to eliminate them in concert with only some of the nuclear weapons of the superpowers.

Once again I must ask you for a clear answer on Labour's position. Is it the intention to eliminate all our nuclear weapons only when the Soviet Union eliminates all of its nuclear weapons, or is it Labour's position to eliminate all our nuclear weapons in return only for a fraction of the Soviet nuclear arsenal?

I cannot believe that you are unaware of the ambiguity of this crucial matter. "Please will you now clear it up without evasiveness and prevarication by telling me whether or not it is Labour's policy to continue to possess some nuclear weapons as long as the Soviet Union has some nuclear weapons?"

That letter from Norris was dated December 18. His next (he is patient, too) was dated February 8, and runs like this:

I wrote to you on 18th December last and enclose a copy... Since I have not heard from you, I am inclined to think that my letter must have gone astray (and charitable) over the Christmas holiday period. You will, I think, agree that my letter raised a fundamental issue and accordingly I would be grateful if you would respond...

Mr Clarke managed to leave himself off the sofa in just over six weeks; his next reply was dated March 22nd, and ran:

I have nothing to add to our previous correspondence. The Party's position is as expressed in our policy document and is clear and unambiguous.

You didn't imagine that Norris would leave it there, did you? Well, he didn't.

Your repeated assertions that the Labour Party's position on unilateralism "is clear and unambiguous" do not make it... so. Will you... answer... this question: "Would a future Labour government continue to possess some nuclear weapons as long as the Soviet Union still has nuclear weapons?"

Mr Clarke managed it in five weeks this time, thus:

I really have nothing to add to our previous correspondence.

Back comes the indefatigable Norris:

Thank you for your letter of May 10th which confirms that Labour is not prepared to keep some nuclear weapons as long as the Soviet Union has them.

Back comes the very fatigable Clarke:

The interpretation that you offer in respect of our previous correspondence is both incoherent and inaccurate.

[Another note to Mr Clarke: Do not try to be witty if you lack the ability.]

The last word, seven months after the first, goes to Norris, who asks again (and again and again):

Would a Labour government continue to possess a nuclear deterrent as long as the Soviet Union has nuclear weapons? Would it? Or wouldn't it?

The rest is silence, or it would have been had Norris sent me the entire correspondence. But the puzzle remains, the puzzle being the nature of Labour's defence policy, but why the hapless Mr Clarke is not allowed to say what it is. Readers anxious to answer the question should send their solutions not to me but to Norris McWhirter, or better still, to Mr Clarke.

A whole generation of left-wing academics has had to rethink its beliefs due to Mrs Thatcher's Victorian values, writes radical historian Raphael Samuel

The history woman

What on earth does John Gigg mean by saying (*The Times*, June 29) that Mrs Thatcher was "deficient" in a sense of history — more so, according to him, than any other British prime minister — and that it was only her "very limited understanding of the past" which allowed her to pursue her causes? I should have thought almost the reverse was true.

On Russia and eastern Europe, if not on southern Africa, on enterprise culture if not on education, and even in her brutal treatment of unproductive pits and the coalfields, she showed an intuitive capacity to seize on what was new and developing — perhaps the first condition of the historical imagination — and she clearly cares passionately about the past, or at least her version of it.

I do not see how else one can explain her excited interventions in the debate about how history should be taught in schools (I wish the leader of the party I support, or the shadow education minister, had shown a tinge of her interest in the contents of the new core curriculum). One might cite, too, that rare moment of humility, as of one who still lives with a remembered shame, when she received Vladimir Havel at Downing Street and spoke of Britain's betrayal of the Czechs at Munich.

It was surely the historian in her rather than the diplomat who chose the occasion of the bicentenary of 1789 to deliver a lecture to the president of the French Republic on how liberty was a British invention. *A Tale of Two Cities* was her favourite childhood book, and it seems she could not silence the distant echo of the tumblers and join in the razzmatazz.

Mrs Thatcher had no feel for the traditions of the British ruling class or — despite the Falklands war and her invocations of Churchill — for the imperial dimension of British history, whence her impatience with the Commonwealth and her indifference to royalty. A lifetime of active politics seems to have insulated her from, rather than drawn her into, the mystique of Westminster and Whitehall.

She reached out instead to the provincial England of her childhood, constructing an alternative national epic in which there was a merchant-adventurer in every counting-house, a village Hamp-



Church of England, the higher civil service, the universities, the BBC and the bar, she did as much as the cultural revolution of the 1960s to destabilise the establishment and degenerate public life.

Her chosen persona was not that of a successful tax lawyer and denizen of Chelsea, as it might have been, or that of a scholarship girl who had discovered her true vocation in the city of dreaming spires, but that of a grocer's daughter from Grantham who was still living, metaphorically speaking, above the shop. She stuck to this identity with remarkable fidelity. She did not, like Roy Jenkins, use parliamentary preference and academic honours to make herself a Whig; nor was she, like the leaders of the SDP, an insider, pretending to be an outsider.

She seems genuinely to have classed herself with the great excluded, and the well-advised contempt of her old tutors, rejection by her old university, and the repeated attacks by such as Sir John Pope-Hennessy on her alleged philistinism seem to have confirmed her in her chosen part.

Mrs Thatcher was the only philosophically interesting minister of my adult lifetime. As much by accident as by design she stumbled on issue after issue of high principle, where there were genuinely incompatible moral choices to be made. Working less by reason than by the passions, she made the nationality question a storm-centre of British politics and forced us to take up alternative definitions of what it means, today, to be British.

Attacking socialism as an evil, and casting doubt on the very idea of public service, she forced us to reaffirm — but also to rethink — the place of the collectivist idea in British life and politics and of the social services in civil society. Her ideas, though aligned to right-wing politics, have disturbing affinities to the radical individualism recently in vogue on the left.

Now that British politics has reverted to double-talk, with the Conservatives pretending to be the party of classlessness, while Labour declares its devotion to the free market, I for one regret that there is no longer anyone to keep us on our ideological toes.

The author is a tutor at Ruskin College, Oxford, and an editor of *History Workshop Journal*.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

The news last night that the Royal Family had eaten a little ice-cream for dinner has astounded royalty-watchers throughout the land.

Many have expressed immense concern at this dramatic development. "I'm afraid that this is bound to call attention to a coolness at the heart of the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales," said Mr Nigel Dempster of *The Daily Mail*. "Ice-cream — chocolate-flavoured, I am reliably informed by close friends of the couple — is a dish traditionally associated with fine weather. To serve it in the present spell of bad weather is undoubtedly an act of desperation. Friends tonight are hoping that what is already being dubbed 'the Ice-Cream Incident' does not signal an end to what once seemed a glorious marriage. Intimates of the couple tell me that they were even spotted eating their ice-cream off different plates."

However, veteran BBC court correspondent Mr Godfrey Talbot has greeted the news with much enthusiasm. "The Queen Mother, widely admired as the best-loved lady in the world, a lady whose unchanging warmth and shine makes her irresistible to young and old, will have gained herself even more admirers by the utterly selfless and professional way in which she has finished off this most British and Royal of dishes," he commented, adding, "Incidentally, members of her intimate circle tell me that the flavour of the ice-cream was raspberry — a brilliant choice. I'll say so, for this lovely lady

for whom every day is summer. By the way, this might be an apt moment to recall the occasion of our first meeting. Naturally, I was nervous, but she set me at my ease straightaway with one of those off-the-cuff remarks for which she is rightly renowned. Would you like to hear it? Oh, well, fair enough, perhaps another day then."

In the very first tie-in book of the incident, *The Royal Ice: A Nation Rejoices* (Bantam, £15.95, with 63 full colour location illustrations of various ices shot from a variety of angles, many previously unpublished), award-winning journalist Anthony Holden claims that their consumption of ice-cream bodes well for the continued mystery of the monarchy. "Bagshot once said that an ice-cream is the brilliant edition of a universal fact, and as such it refreshes mankind," he writes, "and the same might be said of the monarchy. Certainly, looking at the manner in which the Royal Family sat down to eat their vanilla ice-cream last night, there can be few who would doubt their readiness to face the demands of the 21st century." In Mr Holden's new book, *New Perspectives on the Ice-Cream Incident: A Right Royal Blunder*, he maintains that in future historians may date the decline of the monarchy from this incident.

Tabloid journalists are today vying with one another for new angles. In a world exclusive, *The Sun* makes the shock claim "ICE-CREAM SCOOOP!" that Princess Michael of Kent se-

cretely removed her portion of blackcurrant ice-cream in a specially refrigerated handbag and was seen selling it in a concealed cone to a passer-by in the Kensington area. Meanwhile, *The Daily Mirror* suggests that The Duke and Duchess of York spent a large part of the evening throwing the pistachio ice-cream at one another "under the approving eye of the Queen". *The Daily Express* has a contrived spread of "the bright new fashion craze that's sweeping the country", featuring models dressed as choc ices, wearing hats created from upturned tubs, retelling from Vivienne Westwood at £295 (spatula not included).

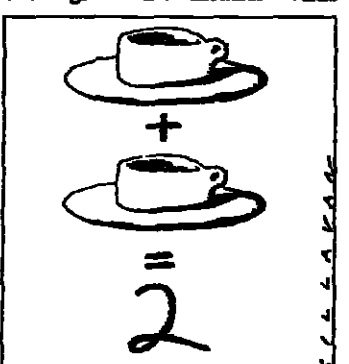
The Independent newspaper, which has carried no direct report of the affair, instead includes a two-page medical section detailing the dangers faced by people who eat too much ice-cream. "A recent survey in California reveals that those who eat more than twice their body-weight in ice-cream in less than 24 hours may be in danger from heart problems or even obesity," it states. "Doctors believe that while ice-cream taken in moderation causes little permanent damage, the dangers from excessive consumption may be considerable."

Life magazine's Buckingham Palace spokesman has confirmed that the menu issued for last night's Royal Banquet contains a minor error. "For 'ice-cream' read 'fruit salad'" runs the official announcement. "We apologise for any trouble this misprint may have caused."

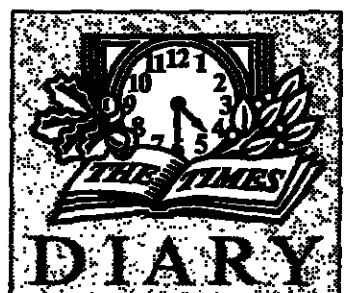
Speaking in splendour

The Cafe Royal was a splendid choice of venue for the launch of John Major's education initiative yesterday. An exuberant vista of gilding and crimson velvet... the fumes of tobacco that rise to the painted and gilded ceiling... cynical conversation... this indeed is life, wrote Max Beerbohm of the Picaresque watering hole. If the speech was meant to be the prime minister's long-awaited "big idea", where could he more fitting than the Cafe which gave birth — or at least acted as midwife — to so many big ideas of the past? The Cafe Royal was, after all, almost a second home to many of the great names of literature who have gone on to take their places on school examination set book lists: J.B. Priestley, G.B. Shaw and D.H. Lawrence to name but a few.

Oscar Wilde was also a regular, spending his time in the Domino Room, which remains today, after evenings at the theatre. Wilde



scholars agree that the inspiration for some of his finest works came in the opulent surroundings of the Cafe, although it also contributed to his downfall when the Marquis of Queensberry spotted Wilde din-



ing there with his son, Lord Alfred Douglas.

When Frank Harris, author of *My Life and Loves*, was sent to Brixton prison in 1914 for contempt of court, his meals were delivered from his favourite restaurant at the Cafe Royal. It even appears in D.H. Lawrence's *Women in Love*, thinly disguised as the Cafe Pompadour.

David Willetts, director of the Centre for Policy Studies, which organised Major's lecture, admits they were aware of what he called the Cafe's "touché traditions", but the choice was made on more practical grounds. "I hate to disappoint you," says Willetts, "but the truth is that Rocco Forte, the owner, is sympathetic to the CPS and gave us the rooms on very favourable terms. Sorry."

Below the line

Desperate times, desperate measures. The Royal Welch Fusiliers, who brought their campaign against the government's merger plans to the streets of London yesterday, have employed a PR company to plead their case. The account has gone to Quaker of Cardiff.

But the hard-ear tactics have caused some offence in other regimental mess-rooms also fighting the merger plans. "I am helping some of the Scottish regiments," says Andrew Duncan, of the International Institute of Strategic

Studies. "I hadn't heard of anyone employing a PR company. Most regiments are using retired people such as myself."

If the Welch are fighting with cruise missiles, it seems, the Scots are stuck in the days of long bow and pikestaff.

● The National Fine Art Degree Fair later this month promises to unveil for the first time something called "freer art". The works, by Jayne Herringshaw, a 22-year-old student at Wolverhampton Polytechnic, will be displayed inside a chest freezer at London's Business Design Centre. "The exhibit manipulates the onlooker," she says. "Enjoyment of the work is limited by how long it takes before it starts to melt. It is about the temporary and ephemeral work being as beautiful as a permanent work." It is quite out of date to think that art is about preserving the essence of a moment for eternity?

Pat on the shoulder

Connoisseurs of the court circular will surely have raised their eyebrows this week over the announcement that Viscount Whitelaw has been knighted by the Queen in Edinburgh. Why was one of only three hereditary peers created in the past decade being given a common or garden knighthood?

The answer became apparent only in the following day's circular, which carried the information that Whitelaw had been to Holyroodhouse for an audience with the Queen for a second day running. On this occasion he was installed as a Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Scotland's equivalent of the Order of the Garter.

If all is still not clear, allow Sir Malcolm Innes of Edinboro, Scotland's Lord Lyon King of Arms, further word of explanation. "The Knights Brethren of the Order is an exclusive club open to just 16

members. But to be eligible, one must already possess a knighthood." Having become a peer in 1983 from being plain Mr Whitelaw, the former cabinet minister was unqualified. The Lord Lyon King moved swiftly, arranged a royal audience for the day before the dubbing and smoothed Whitelaw's way to joining the list of distinguished Scots.

Sharp, not cutting

Irascible as ever, Nicholas Ridley has refused to comply with government requests for cuts in his forthcoming book about life in the cabinet. No one is saying just which are the contentious passages in the book, *My Style of Government*, which appears next week. The publishers claim not to know, the Cabinet Office is not telling, and the author himself is sworn to silence by an up-market piece of cheese-book journalism which has forced him to cancel all other media appearances until after publication.

Whether Ridley's refusal results in a livelier book than those produced by most of his former cabinet colleagues remains to be seen. But why did he bother submitting his text at all? Friends say they knew all along there was little chance he would agree to any proposed cuts, leading some critics to suggest it was no more than a marketing ploy.

● So British Rail's annual report insists that about 90 per cent of its services run on time. The news will astound those who spend their lives waiting on windy platforms. But there is an explanation. On many services, anything less than 10 minutes late counts in BR's book as "on time" and is excluded from the figures. Nor are cancelled services included. Add those, and the reliability factor drops to a figure that will sound much more plausible to the commuter still awaiting yesterday's 8.15.



THE END OF PATIENCE

Since the beginning of May the Northern Ireland secretary, Peter Brooke, has vacillated like a doctor with a dying patient between hard alternatives: using all his skill to keep his "initiative" alive while knowing that sooner or later he may have to switch off the life-support machine. No doubt he could have stayed longer with life support, with ever more ingenious ways of postponing the inevitable. It is to his credit that he has not postponed and therefore perhaps worsened the eventual agony. The initiative had turned its face to the wall. It was time for a dignified Irish wake.

The collapse of the talks was hardly unexpected. Conor Cruise O'Brien predicted it in *The Times* almost from the start. Lord Fitt, former leader of the SDLP, said yesterday that anybody with any knowledge of the history of Northern Ireland would have known that these talks had no chance of success "since the main participants entered into them from totally opposing standpoints". They also failed because, for the past 15 years, all Ulster parties had a greater interest in continued direct rule than in any possible alternative. Britain alone had to pay the subsidies and suffer the international ignominy.

The British government must now take Mr Brooke's new realism to its obvious conclusion. There must be a fresh pattern of government for Northern Ireland. Those directly involved have failed to agree on its shape. Britain has no choice but to impose one on the basis of whatever wisdom Mr Brooke has gained in the past six months. If the Ulster parties cannot agree on one of their own, they might at least work with one of Britain's design, as they initially did after Sunningdale in 1974.

In constructing any new scheme for the administration of Northern Ireland to replace the quasi-colonial regime run from Westminster, Britain owes the Ulster Unionists no favours. There can be no re-

turn to a corrupt Stormont. The most realistic option must be some sort of two-tier structure, of revived county administration coupled with a provincial assembly exercising some shared powers. The Unionists wrecked the original Sunningdale power-sharing that brought the SDLP into government. They might try again, though power-sharing of a sort has proved popular in many local authorities since then. But the real difference this time should be clear notice that Britain's continuing role in the province's internal affairs, some security matters aside, will end by a certain date.

At some point in any conflict mediation begins to share the blame for the mess. That is what has happened in Northern Ireland. Groups with incompatible aims only learn to live together when they have no choice. London politicians have been willing to play middle-man and supply a workable administration for the province. The effect has been to freeze the conflict, suppress any home-grown moves to reconciliation, reinforce the extremist tendencies of local politicians while having little impact on intercommunal violence and resulting economic insecurity.

Ulster's politics can continue in a state of low-level civil war in two ways. It can do so at Britain's expense and embarrassment, to the enrichment of the IRA and extreme Protestant groups and impoverishment of the legitimate economy and community. Or a new leaf can be turned. Beneath that leaf might lie all manner of short-term evils, though many with an interest in the continuance of direct rule have an equal interest in exaggerating them. But Ulster is a standing condemnation of Britain's inability to forge a constitution that can conciliate these warring tribes. Britain's Foreign Office lectures the Soviet Union, South Africa and Yugoslavia on just this theme. Mr Brooke should devise such a constitution, and tell Ulster it has no other choice.

BREAK UP AND SELL

Nationalised industry results are not about profits but performance. Yesterday's declared "loss" by British Rail means nothing except that subsidy was insufficient to cover costs in a recession. InterCity's "surplus" was equally meaningless, since InterCity was originally given routes that were intended to be profitable (for instance, the Gatwick line).

British Rail is probably the most cost-effective big railway in the world. Operating expenses are falling, staff productivity is rising, capital invested is being used more intensively. While the rest of Europe's railways demand on average 0.7 per cent of their domestic products in subsidy, BR demands only 0.12 per cent, roughly half the subsidy of a decade ago. Railway investment, after being squeezed disastrously in the 1980s, has doubled in two years. This is a healthy, expansionist industry.

So why do passengers and politicians refuse to be impressed? One reason is that BR is too big an organisation for the service sector, in which it operates more like a giant manufacturer. Almost a decade of retraining and advertising, and emphasis on "putting customers first", has failed to keep pace with the constantly rising demand from its passengers to be treated better. Railways in the 1980s felt that, having seen off internal airlines, speed was enough to win. Privatised motorway coaches have shown that comfort, politeness, better catering and entertainment could win back markets. BR's large, unwieldy corporate structure found it hard to respond at the point of contact with the customer. British trains often cannot convey even simple information to passengers.

British Rail's response to the current revival of consumerism in the public sector has been traditional. It has simply renamed the latest in a constant series of reorganisations, "Organising for Quality". Railway managers must be organising

themselves into exhaustion. The new sectors, set up in the 1980s, were in part pastiche "businesses", such as Network SouthEast and InterCity, meant to reflect the spirit of the age. They also reflected managerial convenience and procurement practice rather than any market identification with a particular route. They eliminated "competition of esteem" between the regions. They finally "nationalised" the railway under a central board, so as to make it much harder for ministers to divide it up on privatisation.

Yet the latest reorganisation does at least offer a chink in BR's armour through which the government might thrust. It restores much of the old regional and divisional management in a new guise. InterCity is to be split along five of the old regional radials, Great Western, the east and west coast lines to Scotland, the Midland, and the Great Eastern to Norwich. Something curiously called the "regional railway", mostly of local and feeder services, is divided up likewise, with ScotRail north of the border. Network SouthEast is to be divided by nine, including the old three south-of-the-river companies. BR is pretending that the detested regions, ghosts of its private-sector past, are nothing to do with the latest structure. It is particularly careful not to give property, least of all property capable of development, to the new divisions. But railway geography keeps bursting out of the BR closet. The government should tell BR to give the new divisions proper assets, including property, and divide up the existing subsidy between them. Properly regulated, they could then be kicked into the private sector. BR would fight such a break-up just as fiercely as did the managers of gas, electricity and telecommunications. Is Malcolm Rifkind tough enough to take BR on?

POLITICALLY INCORRECT

The Fourth of July is an extraordinary commemoration. It was not a day of violent uprising, like Bastille Day, nor of deliverance from violence, like Bonfire Night. The Declaration of Independence may be the birth certificate of the United States and a gem of constitutional literature. It is still only a document. Others may celebrate battles; America celebrates Jefferson's prose.

Many Americans maintain "a decent respect for the opinions of mankind", by proclaiming the liberties for which America is renowned. But they do not include the new wave of university-educated authoritarians. Despising the republic as they do, these champions of "political correctness" are presumably scowling today.

Observance of the Fourth of July is only one of many outward signs that bear testimony to what remains a uniquely constitutional brand of patriotism. The resignation of Justice Thurgood Marshall from the Supreme Court last week has excited more interest than any other domestic news, because it affects the balance of power within one of the principal organs of the body politic. Ubiquitous still is a reverential attitude to the republic.

This cuts no ice on the campus. If pursuit of political correctness is incompatible with the pursuit of happiness as envisaged by the Declaration of Independence, say the evangelists of correctness, so much the worse for the Declaration. Dead white European males or "dwems", the sort of people who invented the United States, are alleged to have hijacked the history books. The 500th anniversary of Columbus next year is the kind of innocent festivity that p.c. graduates think insensitive to "native Americans". If so, what price the Fourth of July?

These fundamentalist critics of the American republic are themselves heirs to a long tradition. They join the students who followed Herbert Marcuse in the 1960s; the Black Power movement; the Trotskyists of Manhattan and the Stalinists of Hollywood in the 1940s. Even the Confederate rebels of the last century would be considered more politically correct than the Union side, were it not for their support for slavery.

But those who scorn Washington and Franklin as gravediggers of the indigenous culture should glance back further. The first foes of the new republic were also the most nearly successful. The Tories, the colonists who opposed secession from British rule, usually did so because they believed that the authority of the Crown took precedence over the abstract rights claimed by the rebels.

Political correctness is about the assertion of authority, generally in the name of social justice, over the anarchic freedoms enjoyed by the individual in America ever since independence. The politically correct course in 1776 was to be a Tory. As for the Statue of Liberty! She is politically incorrect.

It is time the academics, writers and broadcasters who have fostered the p.c. movement formed a society in honour of their great forefathers. It might be called the Cornwallis Club, after the general who had such bad luck at Yorktown, or perhaps the Lord North Association. Tea parties would be banned. Every Fourth of July, the society's Grand Person would be informed by the deputy chair: "All present and politically correct." Then they would raise their glasses of non-alcoholic caffeine-free liquid in a loyal toast to that immortal monarch, Good King George III.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

English 'hijacked' in the classroom

From Sir Randolph Quirk, FBA, and Professor G. Stein

Sir, The national curriculum was widely and warmly greeted as addressing the need to improve the nation's educational standards. So far as the teaching of English was concerned, the Kingman committee gave a well-argued lead in 1988.

Now (and not only from what the responsible minister is saying (report, June 28)), it seems that, three years on, elements of the old teacher-training establishment, so roundly criticised by Kingman, are trying to hijack the controls. Still revealing in 1990s sociological jargon, they are busy with "secondary agendas" that reassert just about everything that the Kingman report rejected. In schools feeble enough to permit it, the English lesson can still serve as a subversive exercise in once-trendy social engineering.

This is not of course what parents want; but what do they know of the woe of their children's teachers? Nor is it what the impressionable and helplessly vulnerable children so badly need. Nor yet is it what the large majority of conscientious teachers want to give them.

The key to sound education, to satisfying careers, and to mobility – social as well as geographical – is proficiency in the wide vocabulary and clear syntax of standard English. It is sheer *trahison des clercs* for

teacher-trainers and text-book writers, themselves secure in having such proficiency (more or less), to disparage standard English as merely one "dialect" among many, and to stigmatise it as a "privileged instrument of class oppression".

As we say in a recent book, it is hypocritically false (or at best professionally incompetent) to create further prejudice, as some BBC programmes for teachers have been doing, by identifying standard English with "a posh accent". Standard English is neutral in this as in other respects, and it is spoken in the accents of Liverpool and Bradford, Glasgow and Dublin alike: not to mention places further afield like Boston and Brisbane.

It is the English of both *The Sun* and *The Times*, of Channel Four and Radio One. It is the English that families of recent immigrants need to master as well as the families of the rest of us. Indeed, it is the families of the least advantaged whose future is most put at risk by those who would evade their duty (as the Kingman report puts it) "to enable children to acquire standard English, which is their right".

Yours faithfully,
RANDOLPH QUIRK,
G. STEIN,
Department of English,
University College London,
Gower Street, WC1,
July 1.

Gallantry awards

From Mr W. J. Morris

Sir, I applaud General Perkins's condemnation (July 2) of the inequitable distribution between officers and other ranks of gallantry awards for the Gulf war. Just as important, surely, is for us to question why it is still felt necessary to perpetuate the distinction between the acts of bravery of the two groups by the crosses and medals awarded.

Such acts of gallantry are not related to leadership which might be the subject of a separate category. Neither is it necessary to preserve the distinction in order to maintain discipline.

The role of the modern army is presently undergoing review and this might be the opportunity to get rid of such distinctions. Yours faithfully,
W. J. MORRIS,
Springfields, Springfield Lane,
Rhydwen, Newport, Gwent.

Older drivers

From Dr R. I. Watson

Sir, Your report (June 25) on the hazards of our ageing driving population is timely. The whole matter of "fitness to drive" needs airing.

As a general practitioner I consider the part GPs have to play in the affair to be vital. We are involved not only with examining elderly patients with a view to their fitness to drive, but also advising others who, as a result of illness, injury or medication, should not drive.

There are very clear guidelines in the handbook, *Medical aspects of fitness to drive*, published by the Medical Commission on Accident Prevention and sent free to all GPs. Nevertheless, it amazes me that many doctors (particularly the hospital-based junior ones, who advise patients on their discharge from hospital) remain ignorant both of its existence and its content.

The removal of the "right" to drive is a serious step which may have wide-ranging consequences, both to the individual and to his/her family. Unfortunately, the measure, emotional and otherwise, to turn a blind eye can be considerable.

Alas, as a result, I am certain that there are many people on the roads today who have been passed "medically fit to drive" who should not have been, and will before long kill themselves and, more tragically, innocent others. Indeed I wonder how long it will before the relatives of the victim of such a driver decide to sue the doctor who passed him fit.

Sports control

From the Chief Executive of the Scottish Sports Council

Sir, Philip Webster's report of June 13, "Overhaul planned for sports control", suggested that Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish interests were obstructing Mr Robert Atkins's attempts to rationalise the administration of UK sport.

In fact the minister's review relates only to England and Wales, and the Scottish Sports Council eagerly awaits the opportunity to comment formally on the proposals in circulation. We support the establishment of an English Sports Council and a new umbrella body to co-ordinate and plan policies for UK sport, provided the latter fairly represents the views of the four

From Mr Richard Hough

Sir, With every possible credit to the RAF Gulf war fighter pilots, your defence correspondent is quite incorrect in stating (June 29) that World War II fighter pilots were sent on a rest after 30 missions. Those were bomber crews, if they survived. I recorded 40 fighter-bomber operations over Europe in one 12-week period in 1945. That was probably below average and certainly did not lead to any rest.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD HOUGH,
31 Meadowbank, NW3.

From Mr Don Courtney

Sir, I was mulling the regimental telephone exchange in a village in Germany 46 years ago and took down a message from Brigade HQ for the CO: "Send the names of four officers for award of MC." Yours faithfully,
DON COURTNEY,
4 Hawbridge Road, E11.

I would remind all drivers to read their licences: "You are required by law to inform the DVLC at once if you have any disability... unless you do not expect it to last more than three months".

Yours sincerely,
RONALD WATSON,
Hayes Hill Cottage,
Stinford, West Sussex.

From Mr Oliver Lever

Sir, Are the courts, I wonder, doing all they should to combat hazards posed by the elderly driver?

Sitting as a magistrate in Nottingham some years ago I suggested that a little old lady, who was clearly an incompetent driver, should be disqualified until she had passed the driving test. My two colleagues on the bench indignantly turned down the proposal on the ground that she could never pass it.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER LEVER,
Blackacre, Back Lane,
Malvern, Worcestershire.

From Mr Kenneth Bromage

Sir, Mother (61) to son (23): "Move over dear, we're in a hurry, I had better drive."

Mother (64) to son (26): "Take over dear, we're in a hurry, you had better drive."

Time comes when history must repeat itself, and we must not forget it.

Yours etc.,
KENNETH BROMAGE,
Holme Chase Hotel,
Nr Ashburton,
Newton Abbot, Devon.

home countries and other appropriate bodies such as the British Olympic Association and the four associations of governing bodies of sport.

However, the administration and funding of Scottish sport must remain the responsibility of the Scottish Sports Council through the Scottish Office, with similar structures in each of the home countries. This is necessary to safeguard the diversity and vitality of home-country sport on which the strength of United Kingdom sport is based.

Yours faithfully,
ALLAN ALSTEAD, Chief Executive,
The Scottish Sports Council,
Caledonia House,
South Gyle, Edinburgh 12,
June 28.

Smoke detectors

From Mr Alan Fisher

Sir, The government's announcement (report, June 26) that it now intends to make smoke detectors compulsory in new houses in Scotland is to be welcomed.

Why only Scotland? This measure, together with a plan for the progressive introduction of smoke detectors to existing properties (often more dangerous than new ones) should be extended to the UK as a whole and, indeed, should become a mandatory EC requirement.

Mr Conal Gregory, MP, showed the way in his unsuccessful private

member's bill, which was blocked by the government earlier this year. The government was right to be concerned about difficulties in enforcing the proposed legislation – there will always be some people who will not comply with the rules – but, surely, if fitting smoke detectors was a mandatory requirement, the great bulk of the population would need little coercion to comply.

I believe we are likely to see a revision of the building regulations, including a requirement for detectors, later this autumn. If that is the case, perhaps it would have been wiser for the government to announce its intentions for England and Wales at the same time as announcing its plans for Scotland.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN FISHER,
Davies Arnold Cooper (Solicitors),
6-8 Bouverie Street, EC4,
June 26.

'Dismal' pursuit of federal identity

From the Duke of Devonshire

Sir, The views of those calling for ever-closer political and monetary union in Europe must be challenged. The post-war history of federations is a dismal one. The British government's efforts in this direction in Rhodesia and the West Indies signally failed. Now Canada is faced with a separatist movement in Quebec, which is intensified by the language issue.

Here in Europe the disintegration of the Soviet Union and, now, events in Yugoslavia show all too clearly that federation imposed from above will not be tolerated by their constituent peoples divided by culture, religion and language.

While nationalism is dangerous, a sense of national identity is natural and should be encouraged. The present Europe of nations must be allowed to remain to meet this natural human need. If these nations are forced together by those led by a vision of a federal Europe we are endangering the prospects of peace for Europe – the very aim of the federalists.

These people, when challenged as to what they wish to establish in Europe, deny that it is a super-state and quibble over the meaning of the word federal, so that it is impossible to find out just what they do want to achieve in our continent. There has been much talk of the catching of trains. Surely no one in his senses catches a train the destination of which is unknown.

Yours sincerely,
DEVONSHIRE,
Chatsworth,
Bakewell, Derbyshire,
June 28.

From Lord Desai

Sir, During last week's adjournment debate on Europe (report, June 27) Mrs Thatcher defended her decision to take sterling into the exchange rate mechanism by saying that this linked sterling firmly to the deutschmark, adding that the 6 per cent band allowed for flexibility. She even compared the ERM to the gold standard.

It is quite clear from this that even nine months after our entry into the ERM its nature is not understood by many of our decision-makers. The ERM allows the agreed deviation, be it 6 per cent or 24 per cent, from any of the participating currencies, not just the deutschmark. Hence it is that the peseta being 6 per cent above its parity with the deutschmark will allow sterling no room to fall below the parity level. The analogy with the gold standard is therefore false.

The ERM is more comparable to a team of mountain climbers, all of whom are tied to each other by ropes; how far one can go up or down depends very much on where everyone else is. It is this complex

and delicate structure that imposes a special challenge to monetary policy. Could it be that the Thatcher government entered the ERM without understanding how it worked?

Yours sincerely,
MEGHNAID DESAI,
House of Lords.

From Mr Sydney L. Mayer

Sir, In Mr Philip Howard's discussion of the meaning of the word "federal" (June 28) he quoted the famous toast of President Andrew Jackson in 1830. He said "our Federal Union, it must be preserved". This was in the context of a growing desire on the part of the southern states to challenge the federal union which they had entered on the foundation of the republic.

The response of the vice-president and sometime senator, John C. Calhoun, was perhaps even more famous. He toasted the president by saying "the Union: next to our liberty the most dear".

Is this not the very point over which so much of the present controversy in Britain is about?

Yours faithfully,
S. L. MAYER,
Bison Books Ltd,
117a Fulham Road, SW3.

From Dr Geoffrey Marshall

Sir, Politicians, both English and French, and even Mr Philip Howard, keep telling us that the word "federal" means something different in French and English. But how can it? In any language, it describes the character of a non-unitary system of government that has a constitutionally created and protected division of powers between a central and a number of local, state or provincial legislatures.

If the French know another sense of the word, let us hear it. After that they might tell us what it is that they call the governments of Canada, Germany, Switzerland, Australia and the United States if not "gouvernements fédéraux"; and also why they have not managed to sort out their ideas more clearly by now.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY MARSHALL,
The Queen's College, Oxford.

From Dr Brenning James

Sir, Writing as a Welshman, I am conscious of the sacrifices which my country has made for the common good, the unified currency and the federation with Scotland and Ireland. Judging by our experience, it has been worthwhile. I feel that I can reassure Parliament that union with Europe, both political and financial, holds few dangers.

Yours sincerely,
BRENNING JAMES,
Cherry Orchard,
Marlow Common,
Buckinghamshire.

Police accountability

From Mr David Hawkins

Sir, You report (July 2) the £40,000 plus costs settled by the Metropolitan Police upon a plaintiff who brought action in the High Court against the Metropolitan Police for alleged false imprisonment and malicious prosecution. The plaintiff's post-hearing statement indicated qualified satisfaction with the settlement.

The public whose purse compensates those believed to be wronged by the authorities would have grounds for satisfaction with the settlement only if they could believe that, in the wider context, it will lead the police to regulate their own affairs in a more zealous and open manner.

Public respect for the integrity of the police force is in urgent need of reviving. This cannot happen so long as the perception persists of internal police investigations and carping settlement devoid of contrition.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HAWKINS,
6 Sale Place, W2,
July 2.

Always on duty?

From Dr Lionel Kreeger

Sir, At social gatherings I am usually reluctant to admit to being a psychoanalyst. I try to get away with saying that I am a doctor; only if confronted do I acknowledge that I am a Freudian psychoanalyst.

My wife often receives such comforting remarks as "oh, you poor thing", but recently on the way home after a party she told me of the charming young lady who, at one point in their conversation about my occupation, whispered an urgent aside: "Is he doing it now?"

Yours sincerely,
LIONEL KREEGER,
19 Platts Lane, NW3,
July 1.

Romanian minister

From Mr Bogdan Baltazar

Sir, I would like to correct some errors concerning my professional record in "A sad day for the spirit of free enterprise" by Jessica Douglas-Home (June 27).

Because of my file with the Securitate, of which I was a victim not a member, and of my general political attitude, I was never and could never have been under-secretary of state during Ceausescu's time. My appointment as director-general (equivalent to assistant secretary of state) for North and South America in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania was made on February 7, 1990 – i.e. after the revolution of December 1989. I left this position in November 1990 to become secretary of state for public information.

All this happened after a political exile of nine years (1981-1990) spent as a shop-floor engineer in an exorbitantly difficult factory 25 kilometres from Bucharest.

Contrary to Mr Douglas-Home's statement, I am not a "known marxist", either by education in the family (well-known liberals) or by training. My ideological orientation, acquired in the City University of New York, is Galbraithian. I am well-versed in marxism, but this does not make me a marxist.

Yours etc.,
BOGDAN BALTAZAR,
(Secretary of State for Public Information),
Prime Minister's Office,
Piata Victoriei 1,
Bucharest, Romania.

Plymouth eight

From Mr Andrew Lummis

Sir, I was lucky enough to eat one of the eight sandwiches available on the train from Plymouth to London on Monday, referred to in the House of Commons (political sketch, July 2).

The choice was more varied than Matthew Parris surmised. As well as egg and watercress there was bacon, lettuce and tomato and cheese and pickle. The InterCity magazine informs me that on the Manchester Pullman one can have a choice of prawn mayonnaise, roast beef with béarnaise sauce, and smoked salmon. In addition a croissant filled with smoked salmon and cream cheese is offered "for the travellers wanting to try something special".

Does this give a new meaning to the North-South divide?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW LUMMIS,
Crapstone House,
Buckland Monachorum, Devon,
July 2.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number – (071 782 5046).

And thereby hangs a tale



Avoiding the mawkish but embracing the upbeat: Danny Scheinmann and Robbie Gringras in 'Telling Tales'

Telling Tales
King's Head, Islington

EVERYBODY has heard of fiddlers on the roof. But the elfin violinist who greeted those entering the King's Head on Tuesday night was more un conventionally seated. Perching on the lintel over an exit marked 'entrance' and serenading the audience with jaunty folk tunes, he created an informal, unpretentious atmosphere that certainly suited the two beaming performers who eventually appeared through the door beneath him.

They wore white shirts and *Fiddler on the Roof* waistcoats, and introduced themselves as Robbie Gringras and Danny Scheinmann, members of a company named after the founder of Hasidism, Baal Shem Tov, or Besht. The Besht Teller, as they call themselves, have a simple philosophy. This is that "God likes a good story", one which "puts sparks into our lives". They spent last spring in Minsk and Kiev, Moscow and Irkutsk, energetically charming audiences of Russian Jews with props consisting mainly of their own versatile bodies and a couple of poles. Now they are back in London, trying to remind us of the primary function of theatre, which is to give immediacy to an absorbing tale.

In this endeavour, they mostly succeed. Have you heard the story about the two friends, one an Arab, the other a Jew, separated by war? Well, one night the Jew crossed the battlefield to see the Arab, only to find himself seized and sentenced to die at the full moon. "Can I spend my last

days with my family?" he asked. "Only if someone agrees to die in your place if you fail to return," said the Arab king. To cut a longish story short, the old friends end on the scaffold, each battling to make the ultimate sacrifice on the other's behalf. "Allow me to be your friend," declares an impressed king in what, by this point, is an inevitable punline.

The stories vary from the fly to the wry, but most somehow manage to avoid the mawkish while embracing the upbeat. The king who goes in

search of a happy man really does find one, a woodcutter who hums to himself even when preoccupied with the army and threatened with death. The citizen of Chein who treks off to discover the wonders of Warsaw takes a wrong turning, makes a circle, and ends up with what he delightedly thinks are a Warsaw wife, Warsaw children and a Warsaw home. They are of course his own, the familiar magically and permanently made new: many people's secret dream.

Not all the tales are Jewish. Indeed,

Rebecca Wolman finishes her production with the famous picture of the heretofore. Hell consisting of people with impossibly long spoons miserably slumped round a teeming table, heaven of smiling children gazing at identical faces, having learnt to use their cutlery to feed each other rather than themselves. It says much for the actors that they give even this the Besht "spark". A down, cynical world needs more of their kind.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

CONCERT
Verdi Requiem
Festival Hall

VICTORIANS were shocked by the Verdi way of death. Those melodramatic chromatic descents smelled too much of La Scala's greatcoat. The smearing brass trills, screaming piccolo and big bass drum beating in Judgment Day (syncopated, too): all this was labelled vulgar by those who really did want life to end not with a bang but a whimper.

We have no ethical problem with Verdi's *Requiem* now, perhaps because we like the fact that its theatricality acts as a protective arch keeping its uncomfortable subject-matter at a safe distance. But its technical difficulties remain surprisingly formidable, considering how often it is sung.

Those difficulties essentially derive from one crucial tension, between the necessity for the singers to stoke up Italianate fervour and the basic requirement for them to float the lines with the tuning of an angel. Tuesday's performance, by the Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus conducted by Giuseppe Sinopoli, provided both fervour and accuracy, if not always simultaneously.

One glorious synthesis came when Waltraud Meier delivered the "Lux aeterna" with glowing timbre and fine control. Ferruccio Furlanetto's bass, too, managed to invest "Mors stupebit" with the cold of the sepulchre, yet bring stirring, inglorious warmth to "Domine Jesu Christe". The tenor Dennis O'Neill uncorked some startlingly abrupt pianissimos; mannered but effective.

But Aprilia Millo, a fast-rising soprano with the New York Met, will want to forget her British debut. She seemed continually surprised by

Sinopoli's speeds (not that she was the only one), and her swoop towards the specified pitch, intrusive everywhere, was disastrous in the octaves opening the "Agnus Dei".

The Philharmonia Chorus, by contrast, could have sacrificed a little of its good intonation and blend for the occasional rough blast. In any case, the big choral movements were a notch too slow for excitement. The gain in hearing the orchestral detail of the "Dies Irae" clearly articulated (particularly by the rampaging trumpets) was offset by the sacrifice of the Sancho's dancing momentum.

Yet this was otherwise one of Sinopoli's more striking interpretations. The hushed start to the work was especially breathtaking; it even silenced the enormous delegation attending from the Society for the Preservation of Loud Bronchial Disorders.

RICHARD MORRISON

TELEVISION
Redemption
BBC 2

GOD save us from East Anglian village-life, as depicted by television drama. They go barny out there, you know. It is on account of the flat drab landscape, the wind, the inbreeding, and the unnatural deathly quiet in the pubs. People with dull brains but rampant libidos start menacing each other and then don't know how to stop; and it builds inexorably to a pitch of rural macho violence. I was thinking of Dave Prie's film *Ratny Day Women*, and of last night's impressionistic, written and directed by Malcolm McKay. Shot in Lincolnshire, it told the story of Stan Peachey's unpopular return after 16 years to his native village, and achieved the high-impossible: it convinced you that there were reasons compelling enough (and perverse enough) to make a person who had escaped this environment genuinely want to go back.

"Go away!" was the most commonly heard sentiment in this play. Stan Peachey (played with passive invulnerability by Tom Courtenay) only had to get off the bus outside the pub, and the whole community was ordering him to get back on it again.

He had been in prison on a life sentence, so presumably had killed somebody, but we did not know who. His weak, oafish brother Harry (Malcolm Storry) asked, at last, "Why did you do it?" but Stan could only say, "I don't know". Meanwhile Stan's slovenly, widowed sister-in-law Valerie (Miranda Richardson) screamed and spat at the mention of his name.

As Stan doggedly persevered in his intention to stay put, he started clearing a derelict orchard at the side of his brother's house, and remembering things. His memories came in short glimpses and weird bright colours, as contrast with the prevailing sepia tone of the present day. He remembered the seductive Valerie taking him to bed on the allotments, and then Valerie again, toiling up a road, with push-chair and toddlers, saying "Who knows, Stan, one of these might be yours". And then he remembered two little boys (Valerie's) climbing into his orchard and stealing apples, and himself shouting in rage, "I warned you, I warned you", and blasting holes in their bodies with a shotgun.

If the association between child-murder and allotment shed rings any bells, it may be because of *A Wanted Man*, a Screenplay trilogy broadcast in 1989, which was written by the same Malcolm McKay who wrote *Redemption*. In *A Wanted Man*, McKay dissected the mind of a serial killer,

Billy Sunderland, who had murdered 15 people (including a five-year-old girl) without remorse, and whose career as a psychopath had been triggered by a sexual assault in a shed. The grim climax to *A Wanted Man* was Billy's full realisation of what he had done — upon which he promptly hanged himself in his cell.

Redemption is a very different piece of work — filmic and atmospheric, less wordy and explicit. But the focus is on precisely the same unbearable predicament: how can anybody (and everybody) cope with the knowledge of this untimely crime? Stan's denouement owed something to Victorian melodrama — the drunken lynch-mob stringing him up, his proclaimed willingness to die ("I want you to do it"), and the intervention of Valerie to save him and forgive him.

But it all made perfect sense in terms of Stan's perceived psychology: he needed to remember, and to be redeemed. In *A Wanted Man*, Billy's psychiatrist insisted he must face up to his crimes: "What else is there?" she asked. In *Redemption*, the same question was used again, to take the matter a great deal further. "You're not just going to forgive him?" Valerie screamed at her sister Kath (Lindsay Duncan). "What else is there?" asked Kath.

LYNNE TRUSS

Onegin
Coliseum

THE combination of John Cranko's romantic masterpiece and two great stars brought a much fuller audience to English National Ballet than the disappointing attendance at last week's programmes. *Onegin* has many advantages over *The Taming of the Shrew*, which began the company's London season. Pushkin's story lends itself more readily to expensive dance than Shakespeare's, and the choice of music from Tchaikovsky's lesser known works allowed Kurt-Fritz Stolze to arrange a much more varied and expressive score than did Scariati for *The Shrew*.

The outcome is Cranko at his most inspired — and inspired not least by the marvellous dramatic qualities of Maria Haydeé as his Tatiana. The youthful rapture which was hers by nature when they created the role 26 years ago has to be acted now, but she is a consummate actress and understands more about every nuance of the character than anyone else. Her feet begin to betray the passage of the years — but who notices when there is so expressive a body and limbs?

Richard Cragan does not have such direct authority in the title role, which he came to only after others had stamped their personalities on it. Perhaps because of that, he acts in a more studied way, and there were times on Tuesday when his constantly flashing eyes and quizzical glances seemed to be suggesting a curious transformation of the cynical anti-hero into a kindly old man trapped by accident in his fate.

But there are moments, such as his first meeting with Tatiana after her marriage, when he shows a deeply personal and touching perception. He is physically still in terrific form, sleek and muscular, and his rapport with Haydeé is a wonder.

Maria Teresa del Real makes a curt Olga and Thomas Edur a thoughtful but so far somewhat prosaic Lensky. The supporting roles have been better done. But this was the guest star's night, and they carried it to triumph.

JOHN PERCIVAL

Arts features, page 17

NEW RELEASES

DEFENDING YOUR LIFE (PG): Albert Brooks as your average neurotic American, put on trial in the streets. Directed by Barry Levinson, with Meryl Streep, Brooks also directs. Curzon West End (071-430 4000). Screen on the Hit (071-430 3366).

THE HAVEN GUN (R): The small, offbeat film by Lucie Arnall returns as accident-prone Li Frost. Directed by Lucie Arnall, with Lucie Arnall, David Zucker, Cannon, Baker Street (071-526 9772). Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Empire (071-437 6555). Whiteleys (071-732 3303/3324).

MARY SEALS (R): Duff, delectable action ym about a US commando unit in the Middle East. With Charlie Sheen, director, Lucie Arnall. Odessa: Kensington (0426 914888). Delta: Odessa (071-722 5606). Warner (071-430 0771).

CITIZEN KANE (U): Welles's enthralling examination of the American dream. Re-release to 50th birthday with a new print struck from the original. Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

CLASS ACTION (R): Gene Hackman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio as father and daughter fighting against the odds of a lawsuit. First airing: Warner (071-437 6555). Whiteleys (071-732 3303/3324).

LA GLOIRE DE MON PERE (U): Epic of a family through Marcel Pagnol's childhood memories — decent, nostalgic, but somewhat over-the-top. Lumière (071-636 0881).

THE BLACKBOARD JUNGLE: A rough and ready education to some more than a few. Theatrical: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

BLUE REMEMBERED HILLS: Seven adult play children in first-class. Theatrical: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

THE CATENAKERS: Donald Sutherland in a classic tale of a tramp and two brothers. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

CARMEN JONES: Chubby Checker's production of the Hammerite Black-bell. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

CORPSE: Bill Bryden's no-holds-barred, no-nonsense staging of police life on the Lower East Side. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

DANCING AT LUGHANAS: Brian Friel's Irish Award-winning memory play set in 1930s Donegal. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

DICKENS WOMEN: Spliced, edited out of the family, the tale and the comedy by Michael Crichton. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER: Simon Celliers in a French-boulevard farce. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT: Jason Donovan's a golden key to this gaudy, brainy musical. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

THE KING AND I: Susan Hampshire returns with David Yip. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

JAMES BROWN: Fresh out of jail after serving a three-year sentence, the godfather of soul is apparently leading a heavy sound. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

HAKIM HARDENBERGER: The virtuoso trumpeter, with his brother Hakim Hardenberg and pianist Roland Ponton, opens this year's "Czechoslovakia" at the Royal Academy. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

THE SEAGULL: Michael Fennell's translation of Chekhov's classic play, directed by Terry Hands, was met with open acclaim when it opened at Stratford last year. The production now begins previews on the Royal Shakespeare Company's London stage, starring Simon Russell Beale (Yakovlev), Susan Flaxman (Arkadina) and Amanda Root (Mira). The play will open next Thursday. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Sir Colin Davis conducts Beethoven's Mass in C (with soloists: Victoria Kennedy, Diana Montague, Keith Lewis and Gaynor Howard), and Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor, performed by violinist Alicia de Larrocha. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

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CINEMA GUIDE

GOFF BROWN'S assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol @) on release across the country.

GUILTY BY SUSPICION (R): The small, offbeat film by Lucie Arnall returns as accident-prone Li Frost. Directed by Lucie Arnall, with Lucie Arnall, David Zucker, Cannon, Baker Street (071-526 9772). Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Empire (071-437 6555). Whiteleys (071-732 3303/3324).

THE HAVEN GUN (R): The small, offbeat film by Lucie Arnall returns as accident-prone Li Frost. Directed by Lucie Arnall, with Lucie Arnall, David Zucker, Cannon, Baker Street (071-526 9772). Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Empire (071-437 6555). Whiteleys (071-732 3303/3324).

MARY SEALS (R): Duff, delectable action ym about a US commando unit in the Middle East. With Charlie Sheen, director, Lucie Arnall. Odessa: Kensington (0426 914888). Delta: Odessa (071-722 5606). Warner (071-430 0771).

CITIZEN KANE (U): Welles's enthralling examination of the American dream. Re-release to 50th birthday with a new print struck from the original. Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

CLASS ACTION (R): Gene Hackman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio as father and daughter fighting against the odds of a lawsuit. First airing: Warner (071-437 6555). Whiteleys (071-732 3303/3324).

LA GLOIRE DE MON PERE (U): Epic of a family through Marcel Pagnol's childhood memories — decent, nostalgic, but somewhat over-the-top. Lumière (071-636 0881).

THE BLACKBOARD JUNGLE: A rough and ready education to some more than a few. Theatrical: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

BLUE REMEMBERED HILLS: Seven adult play children in first-class. Theatrical: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

THE CATENAKERS: Donald Sutherland in a classic tale of a tramp and two brothers. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

CARMEN JONES: Chubby Checker's production of the Hammerite Black-bell. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

CORPSE: Bill Bryden's no-holds-barred, no-nonsense staging of police life on the Lower East Side. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

DANCING AT LUGHANAS: Brian Friel's Irish Award-winning memory play set in 1930s Donegal. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

DICKENS WOMEN: Spliced, edited out of the family, the tale and the comedy by Michael Crichton. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER: Simon Celliers in a French-boulevard farce. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT: Jason Donovan's a golden key to this gaudy, brainy musical. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

THE KING AND I: Susan Hampshire returns with David Yip. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

JAMES BROWN: Fresh out of jail after serving a three-year sentence, the godfather of soul is apparently leading a heavy sound. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

HAKIM HARDENBERGER: The virtuoso trumpeter, with his brother Hakim Hardenberg and pianist Roland Ponton, opens this year's "Czechoslovakia" at the Royal Academy. Comedy: Fulham Road (071-370 2538). Curzon Phoenix (071-840 8891).

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THE SEAGULL: Michael Fennell's translation of Chekhov's

Debts of Lewis's burden shopfitter

By NEIL BENNETT

(Reuter) |

During the year, profits from Campbell's newer subsidiaries compensated for losses in its traditional shopfitting business. The group has shed 250 of its 1,200 staff, and has been hit by an extraordinary loss of £1.39 million from closing two operations in southeast England.



British problems affect SecPac

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

Wells Fargo stunned the market by announcing a 94 per cent fall in second-quarter profits after provisions for bad loans quadrupled to \$350 million, lifting total problem loans to \$1.5 billion.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

companion at Partridge Fine Arts, the Belfast stationer and bookseller, has become a major competitor. NFO acquired the plant, machinery and orders of EJ Arnold & Sons of Leeds in a £1.8 million takeover, completing chairman and director John produce more than 200 million exercise books this year.

NPO, the Belfast stationer and bookseller, has become the UK's largest manufacturer of educational stationery by buying a major competitor. NPO acquired the plant, machinery and orders of EJ Arnold & Sons of Leeds in a £1.8 million deal. Darwin Templeton, chairman, said NPO would produce more than 200 million exercise books this year.

The company said prospects had improved, however, because of sterling's depreciation against the dollar and a stronger freight market. The final dividend is maintained at 3p a share, making a total of 4p. Last year's total payment of 8.5p a share included a special dividend of 3.5p.

PRE-TAX profits at Feedback, the USM-quoted manufacturer of electronic equipment, slumped 87 per cent to £57,500 in the year to end-March. The company is dipping into reserves to pay a final and total dividend of 0.5p a share (1p and 1.75p respectively). Feedback blamed the profits fall on a ban on exports to Iraq and reduced capital expenditure.

LITTLESHALL, the industrial distribution, engineering and building products group, is acquiring Vanplas Holdings for up to £4 million in cash and shares, depending on future profits. Vanplas, which makes and distributes products for the uPVC replacement window industry, recorded pre-tax profits of £516,000 in the year to end-September 1990, on a turnover of £6.91 million and net assets of £495,000.

By MATTHEW BOND

The increase, however, follows a sharp fall 12 months ago when profits dropped from £3.8 million to £874,000. Richard Saunders, chairman, said the results were an "excellent achievement" in a property market whose recession seemed more deeply rooted than that in 1974. He said much of the improvement was due to cost-cutting, especially in Britain, where profits rose 5.7 per cent, despite turnover down 9.3 per cent.

FROM BRIAN BUCHANAN
IN SYDNEY

ALAN Bond, the Australian entrepreneur, lost his last substantial asset last night when receivers took control of his 72 per cent interest in the Queensland Nickel joint venture.

The receiver-managers are from KPMG Peat Marwick, the accountant. The other 28 per cent in the joint venture, which owns the Yabulu refinery near Townsville, is held by the Queensland government.

The action taken by the banking syndicate against Dallhold Investments, the Bond family company, included removing Mr Bond and his son Craig from

The receivership action was brought by Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Bank of New Zealand and Tricontinental Australia, which are owed a total of A\$390 million (£187 million).

In Sydney, winding-up proceedings against Dallihold are being taken by another company.

"I am delighted to announce excellent results for the year. Future profitability is dependent on satisfying our customers' requirements and on competing successfully. The businesses of electricity distribution and supply will remain the cornerstones of our company and its success.

We have a strong balance sheet, a sound customer base, underlying economic strength in the region and a committed workforce. We are well positioned to develop our strengths to the benefit of our customers and shareholders.”

George Squair
Chairman and Chief Executive

Financial Highlights

	1990/91 Actual £m	Prospective Forecast £m
Historical Cost Accounting		
Turnover	1,047.5	
Profit before taxation	81.4	60.5
Profit after taxation	55.5	42.7
Earnings per share	43.6p	33.5p
Net dividend per share	10.36p	10.36p
	£m	£m
Pro forma profit before tax	67.8	46.9
Pro forma profit after tax	46.5	33.9
Pro forma earnings per share	36.5p	26.6p

SEEBOARD
Doing a power of good

The Annual Report and Accounts for 1990/91 will be published and distributed to all shareholders in early August 1991. If you wish to obtain a copy please write to or telephone the Company Secretary at SEBOARD plc, Grand Avenue, Hove, East Sussex BN3 2LS. Telephone 0273-746746.

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FT-SE 100 VOLUMES[illegible]

MAJOR INDICES

New York:					
Dow Jones:	2943.97	(-28.85)	General	5763.13	(-6.82)
S&P Composite:	374.30	(-3.17)	Panel CAC	462.47	(-1.65)
Nikkei Average:	23373.47	(-622.23)	Zurich: SKA Gen	535.9	2.0
Hong Kong:			London:		
FTSE 100:	3706.57	(+23.68)	FT - All Share:	1174.07	(-5.18)
FTSE: Euro 100:	1095.64	(-14.22)	FT: Gold Mines:	1303.69	(-5.1)
			FT: Gold Mines:	92.16	(+1.12)
Amsterdam:			FT: Bond Interest:	94.22	(+0.39)
CBS Treasury:	92.4	(-0.5)	Bargains:	92.18	217.76
Sydney: AO:	1528.7	(-14.3)	SEAO Value:	453.00	
London: DAX:	1614.41	(+3.91)	SEAO (Outstream):	126.70	(-0.40)

*Denotes latest trading price

Of tel moves the goalposts for BT

COMMENT

When is a deal not a deal? Apparently when it involves Of tel, the official regulator for Britain's telecommunications industry. In March, Of tel laid down the basis on which competitors can have access to BT's network. Yesterday, the goalposts shifted again. From BT's standpoint the changes are not favourable.

With clenched teeth, BT spokesmen were being frightfully polite yesterday, suggesting diplomatically that any disagreements with Of tel and its chief, Professor Sir Bryan Cantrill, would probably not have to be resolved by calling the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to act as referee. But it would be surprising if, privately, BT's top executives were not seething. It would amaze nobody if the MMC was eventually called to action.

During the long process of reviewing the telecoms industry and its dominance by BT and the Cable and Wireless offshoot Mercury, masses of evidence were heard about the introduction of greater competition. Without access to BT's system,

there will be no new competition. But during the so-called duopoly review BT and Of tel agreed the principle that, apart from interconnect charges, new entrants should also make some contribution to the deficit incurred by BT on the provision of exchange lines. For BT this was an important recognition, of not much financial significance at present, but greatly so as time goes by. For BT is constrained from fixing interconnect charges at free market levels. Access on the cheap would certainly provide competition, but on unfair terms.

Since March, Of tel has been hearing submissions from others and has now decided it needs the freedom to decide for itself, in the name of competition, when deficit contribution payments will be made and when they will not. The playing field is to be tilted even more strongly in favour of BT's competitors. Sir Bryan was making clear

yesterday that the consultations that changed his mind were an essential and inbuilt part of the regulatory process. BT is privately miffed that it had no chance to take part itself.

The substantive issue here is one of consistency. How are BT shareholders to make sense of the regulatory framework dominating their company's operations if the company itself cannot be sure? Will Of tel's pronouncement be the final word?

This is not an ideal background to the public sale of the government's remaining tranche of BT shares scheduled for the autumn. Few would object to the idea of tough competition for BT. But having once sold half its shares to the people, and with hopes of repeating the process this year, the government might care to indicate how much of

BT's market share is up for grabs. To a long-term investor, the answer is vital.

OECD woe

Treasury economists were patting one another on the back yesterday as they read the forecasts for the British economy published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The OECD is generally considered to be the world's pre-eminent forecasting institution and its projections for 1991 are almost identical with the forecasts produced by the Treasury at the time of the Budget. The OECD expects gross domestic product to fall by 1.8 per cent this year, while the Treasury forecast a 1.9 per cent decline. The OECD

predicts a 2.7 per cent fall in domestic demand, while the Treasury projected 2.8 per cent. On investment, inflation and even the balance of payments, the two sets of forecasts are almost identical. For once, it seems, the Treasury's much-maligned forecasters may have got their figures spot on.

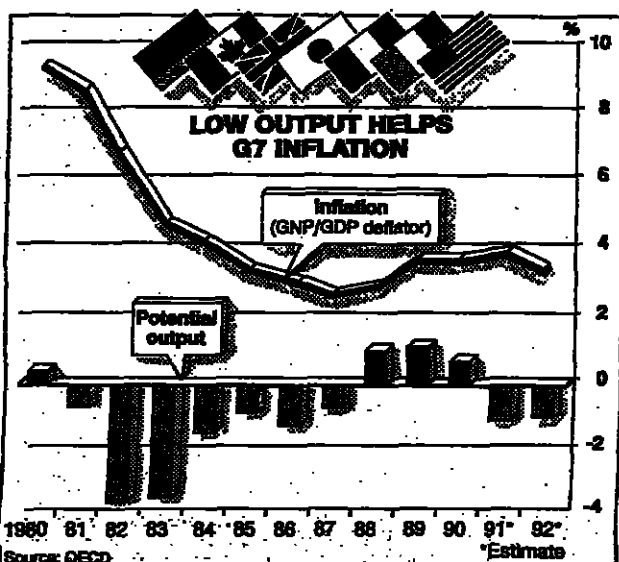
There are, however, two huge objections to the mandarins' self-satisfaction. First, what is good news for the economists may not be so good for the economy itself. When the Treasury first revealed its forecast of a 1.9 per cent decline in GDP, it was at the most dismal extreme of the range of dismal scientists' projections. The fact that the Treasury is proving right at the expense of the optimists is hardly a cause for celebration. Yet to listen to the Chancellor's speeches, the slightest sign of an economic upturn before new year's eve would now be construed as an triumph because it would

confirm the Budget prediction that recovery would begin in the second half.

This leads to the second objection. The OECD's figures for the whole of 1991 may be consistent with the Treasury's, but the shape of the recession and recovery foreseen by the OECD is significantly different. The OECD predicts that GDP will expand at an annual rate of only 0.3 per cent in the second half of 1991 after a 2 per cent rate of decline in the first half. The Treasury forecast is for a 1.5 per cent rate of expansion in the second half after a plunge of 2.9 per cent.

The difference between these two profiles of recession and expansion may seem insignificant to the Treasury economists, but the Chancellor would be unwise to ignore it. The Treasury is predicting a modest recovery that will become clearly perceptible by the end of the year. But if the OECD turns out to be right, the Chancellor's much vaunted recovery could be virtually invisible—at least until John Smith is in Number 11 Downing Street.

OECD finds in favour of a return to growth



current account imbalances in Canada, Germany and Japan were narrowed.

The report shows OECD inflation slowing to an annual 3.8 per cent in 1992, from 4.4 per cent this year and 4.3 per cent in 1990. The European members of the organisation, whose growth will be more modest than the OECD overall, are expected to see their annual inflation falling to 5.1

environment conducive to initiating and sustaining disinflation.

But the gaps are expected to be only small, suggesting progress on reducing wage and price inflation will only be gradual. For governments still open to the temptation of monetary relaxation, the OECD message is that the margin for error in easing without unleashing inflation is

'The report will reinforce the view that recovery at home will not come as soon as John Major hoped'

per cent in 1992 from 5.7 per cent this year.

With the sharp slowdown easing the pressure on productive capacity, the OECD identifies gaps that are starting to appear between actual and sustainable levels of output and employment.

Given that the pace of economic growth in almost all OECD countries is likely to be slower than the growth of potential output until the end of 1992, these gaps could widen. This points to an

less than in the early Eighties.

The advice is caution. In particular, ensuring that easier monetary conditions are not maintained after recoveries are under way. A repeat of the mistakes after the 1987 stock market crash is clearly not desired.

In a world of varying interest rates, American rates are seen possibly drifting upwards next year as the authorities switch their focus back to fighting inflation and away from this year's theme of

growth. A further rise is projected for Germany, too, where the monetary reins are having to be kept tight to cope with the huge and unpredictable cost of unification.

Although the Group of Seven finance ministers last month appeared reluctant to take on the surging dollar, the OECD expresses concern about the large-scale shifts in the dollar's value, seeing them as a possible threat to American recovery. Any delay there would brake global recovery.

Concentrated exchange market operations, part of the G7 armoury, are seen as a way of preventing exchange rates from becoming a problem.

The outlook makes clear that lower inflation and renewed economic growth will not be sufficient to do more than stabilise the rate of unemployment, which is expected to rise by a percentage point, or 4 million people, in the OECD area during the present slowdown.

This will leave unemployment stuck at 7.1 per cent in 1992. The OECD's European members, meanwhile, will see unemployment rise from 8.7 per cent this year to 9 per cent next.

"There would seem little scope for unemployment rates to come down without stoking inflation, unless significant further progress is made with structural reforms to improve the functioning of labour markets," the OECD warns.

It will certainly not be lost on a British government that has to face a general election by next summer.

Despite all the difficulties facing individual countries and regions, the OECD has some encouraging words to say about the prospects for the current decade. Not only would its members, in general, appear to have become better at handling economic shifts and shocks, but they also have clear scope to improve on past performance and get richer.

By the beginning of the Nineties, it points out, average real income per head in the OECD area was about 25 per cent higher than it had been ten years before. "The coming decade could well bring a comparable advance."

The downside, however, will be the persistence of social problems, chief of which the organisation identifies as long-term unemployment, educational failure, poverty, urban and rural decay, an ageing population, and the spectre of mass immigration.

COLIN NARBROUGH
Economics Correspondent

Why Lamont will not be able to close the banks loan book quietly

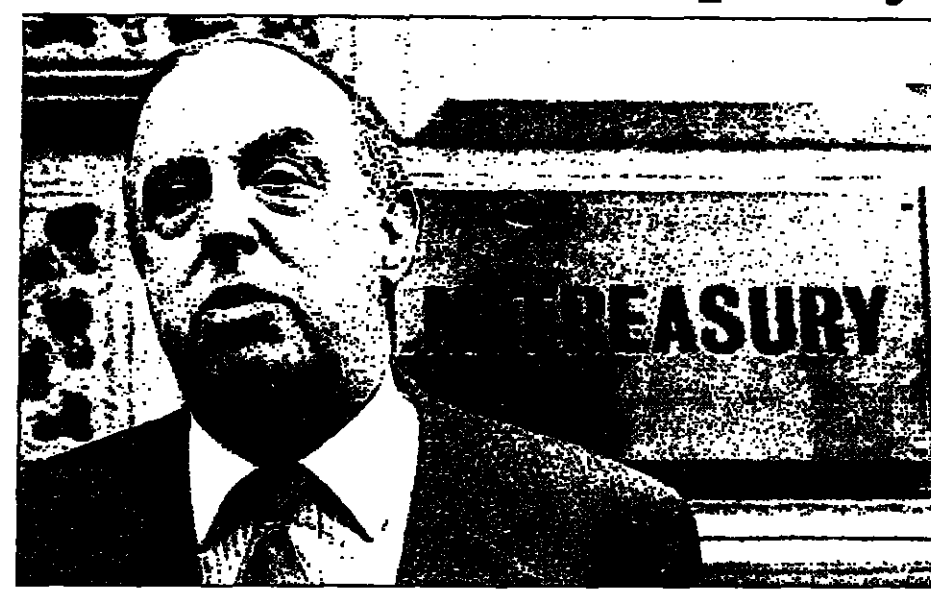
THE heads of Britain's five main banks are due to file into the office of Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, soon to hear the results of the Treasury and Bank of England report into their lending to small businesses.

The conclusions should please them. The report is believed to show that, contrary to the anecdotal evidence that prompted the inquiry, interest rates on the banks' loans of £50 billion to small businesses have only marginally increased since the start of the recession.

Figures gathered from the banks by the Bank of England should show that much of the lending to small companies is fixed at between 3 and 3½ per cent above base. The report will also show that the loans made to companies at 6 or even 8 per cent over base, which sparked the row, are exceptional, and that the accusation that banks are delaying economic recovery is ill-founded.

More importantly, the report has uncovered no evidence that banks have been acting as a cartel to fix small business interest rates.

Mr Lamont may well like to bring this episode to a rapid and quiet end, announce the conclusions of the report through an answer to a written question in the Commons and disappear for the summer recess. He will find it difficult to close the subject so easily. While the statistics may show



Called to account: Lord Alexander, of NatWest, after an earlier Treasury meeting the banks are not overcharging most of their small business customers, the debate has thrown up a huge body of anecdotal evidence of poor service from the banks.

The complaints are wide ranging. Some companies have been hit by heavy and unexpected bills for bank charges, others have had overdraft facilities abruptly reduced or cancelled or been forced to put up additional security. Most suggest high-handed insensitivity towards customers in a recession; a few detail gross inefficiency.

The common thread through all these complaints is

that small companies are unable to move their account to another bank once they run into difficulties with their existing lender. In this respect, competition in the small business banking market is limited.

This body of dissatisfaction may only represent a minority of small business customers, but it has transformed the debate from one about pricing to one of service.

The Labour party is now calling for Mr Lamont to publish the report and use it as a platform for a debate between the banks and small business groups. The shadow Treasury

team has tabled an amendment to the finance bill, calling for banks to send details of their small business lending to the Treasury every six months. Labour hopes that by waving the threat of regulation, it will encourage banks to discuss, and improve, their service to business.

An alternative could be the creation of a small business ombudsman, or a panel of bankers, to adjudicate on banking disputes, a solution favoured by the Forum of Private Business, the small firms' pressure group.

NEIL BENNETT
Banking Correspondent

Power poised to spark



Squair: topping forecast sector showed a 4.8 per cent increase.

THREE quarters through the electricity reporting season, with signs of battle fatigue setting in among City observers, it is becoming increasingly clear that some profit figures are, to say the least, academic.

In part this is because of the Byzantine regulatory regime governing the industry with huge sums swinging backwards or forwards into different financial years depending on whether the various companies have under- or over-recovered tariffs due.

But several have also taken the sensible view that if profits top forecasts because the assumptions governing last year's flotation were wrong, some of that might as well be tucked away in the form of increased provisions. Southern did just that last week, and Midlands Electricity, reporting yesterday, has taken a similarly cautious view.

Pre-tax profit of £109.7 million in the year to end-March beat expectations by 19.4 per cent, despite an unspecified increase in the rate of provisions against deferred maintenance, restructuring and bad debt costs. On a strictly like-for-like basis, therefore, Midlands' pre-tax figure would probably have been about £10 million higher still.

Seaboard, again reporting yesterday, came in 34.5 per cent ahead of forecast at £81.4 million. Dividend cover thus rose from a forecast 1.8 times in the prospectus, which the company admits had given rise to concern, to a more comfortable 2.5 times. Both companies have snuck with initial dividend forecasts, but in line with the others in the sector they will have no problems providing real dividend growth this year.

Seaboard, led by George Squair, has the advantage of the fast-growing Garwick corridor in its area. Total unit growth last year was 3.4 per cent, but the important commercial

Midlands is ahead of most of the pack in its involvement, with other regional electricity companies, in the ICI/Enron Teesside station, one of the few independent ventures that looks likely to materialise.

Both companies offer a prospective yield of 6.7 per cent and neither looks to be a raging buy. But the electricity sector has been held back by the weakness of water shares, despite the power companies' impressive profits growth. The water tide would appear to have turned with the publication this week of a distinctly half-hearted broadside from the regulator.

Water share prices were sharply higher yesterday, with the electricity distributors, in contrast to the generators and the luckless Scots, ahead in sympathy and against the run of the market. As the remaining power profit statements trickle out, further progress can be expected.

Granada

DEREK Lewis has gone from Granada, but his legacy lingers on. The computer business by which he set such grand store for the future continues to plague the profit and loss account and will do so for at least the rest of this year.

Unlike Mr Lewis, however, who paid for the ill-starred venture with his job, the computer business has been handed a reprieve by Alex Bernstein, the chairman, who yesterday reaffirmed his faith in the division's potential.

That Mr Bernstein is still at Granada has raised some eyebrows in the City, but then it would have been calamitous, rather than just embarrassing, for Granada to lose both chairman and chief executive so close to the independent television franchise review.

Granada's new chief executive may of course have his own ideas on the value of computer services, which contributed a £700,000 loss to the interim results.

Half-year results hold few surprises, following the forecast that accompanied May's £163 million rights issue. Satellite TV continues to exceed expectations, but there is no sign of recovery in rentals.

With gearing back to 50 per cent and the dividend already pruned, the worst should be over, although the unthinkable loss of the Northwest franchise would be a real blow. At 142p, however, the shares are valued at around 12 times this year's expected earnings, which is plenty high enough.

Newman Tonks

WITH both the British and

American property markets having come to a grinding halt, there was an air of inevitability about the sharp fall in profits at Newman Tonks, the architectural hardware group.

Pre-tax profits in the six months to end-April were just £7.3 million, 36 per cent down on last year. Apart from an apparently strong performance by its German subsidiary, Normbau, the benefits of Newman's acquisition programme were again hard to see.

While they wait for better times, shareholders can take comfort from the fact that the balance sheet is looking rather healthier than the profit and loss account, thanks to last year's £32 million rights issue, which left the company un-gearred at the year end. Six months later, after the purchase of Mustad, a French floor-spring manufacturer, and Worcester Partners, the specialist hinge manufacturer, and the sale of Randall Electronics, borrowings have risen to just under £20 million, giving a gearing of 25 per cent.

At 147p, the shares stand on a 3p discount to the issue price of last year's new shares. Assuming a full-year outcome of £17 million pre-tax, the shares are on a price/earnings multiple of 13.5. High enough.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Pennie wraps up at Capel

TONY Pennie, one of the old hands at James Capel, has stepped down after 22 years with the broker. Pennie joined from Reed Paper as an analyst in 1969 and went on to specialise in the paper and packaging sector. "The firm only had about ten analysts then and we all used to cover many more things," says Pennie, who has enjoyed a continual round of farewell parties during the past month. Rosemary Banyard is to take on paper and packaging at Capel in addition to her current responsibilities as textiles analyst, and more internal moves at the firm are on the way.

Video bait

AMONG the City's better kept secrets are the sizes of the bids by companies seeking the independent television franchises. David Plowright, chairman of Granada Television, nearly turned it to his advantage at his company's

results press conference. Knowing the propensity for journalists to slip into a deep slumber at the mention of a video presentation, he introduced his filmed franchise bid with the claim that the bid price had been "subliminally included". Nobody blinked.

Bain's bane

MICHAEL Farmer, the American who ran the UK operations of Bain & Co, the



"Sierras, Escorts and Fleets have been reduced too."

management consultant, and was dismissed as managing director of Bain UK in November, is squaring up for a fight with his former employers. This week, the secretive Bain is due to respond to a writ in which Farmer alleges unfair dismissal. He is pressing for compensation and alleges among other things that Bain opened his private mail. "I am asking for normal severance and damages," says Farmer, who arrived in London in 1988 to boost Bain's image in the wake of the Guinness affair.

Fighting fit

DESPITE retiring twice in the past 15 years, Leslie Langley-Jones cannot stay away from the City. Langley-Jones, aged 65, who retired from Hoeing & Co in April, was grieved to learn that Ronnie Bateman, aged 55, of Warburgs has been hired by his old firm. Angered by what he sees as an about-turn, he is now planning his third City comeback. "I was

originally told I could stay on until the age of 70," he says of Hoeing's decision. Having worked for AJ Allen, Govett Soes & Co and Roger Mortimer among others, he has no shortage of contacts.

Going for gold

THE Square Mile is on course for the 1992 Olympics, thanks to the efforts of two City yachting stars. Bruce Grant, an insurance broker at Sedgwick Energy, has teamed up with Tim Robinson of Savills, the commercial property surveyor, to compete for an Olympic gold medal. The pair recently completed the Round the Island Race in a dinghy, and will be switching to a tornado catamaran before the qualifying rounds for the Olympics next May. "We will be travelling to each of the European regattas and will spend two months in Australia," says Grant. Savills and Sedgwick are acting as sponsors.

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SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYST c£35,000 + car
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- operate effectively within a senior management team.
- operate strategically and contribute to the service planning processes.
- skillfully represent the interests of the Department in external, influential groups, eg joint planning.
- negotiate on behalf of Senior Managers in Departmental forums.
- contribute technical competence to the budget planning, control and monitoring processes.

We believe that candidates from a variety of backgrounds could fit this brief and that the necessary managerial and finance competencies could have been gained in the private or public sectors. The successful candidate will have an accounting qualification, and preferably, post-graduate management training which included a finance option.

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Please contact the following for application forms:-

Canterbury and Thanet Area Post:

Job application and details from Stuart Atkinson on Thanet (0843) 860000.

For an informal discussion, please telephone Ann Windiate, Area Director or Colin Guest, Area Finance and Information Manager on (0843) 860000. Informal visits are most welcome.

Medway and Swale Post:

Job application and details from Andrea Stanford on Medway (0634) 880404.

For an informal discussion, please telephone Malcolm Barnard, Area Director or Richard Coulson, Area Finance and Information Manager on Medway (0634) 880404. Informal visits are again most welcome.

Closing date for both posts: 19 July 1991. (09577)

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THE TIMES

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Argentina austral*	1559.9-1559.3			Ireland	1.4620-1.4630		
Australia dollar	2.1025-2.1028			Singapore	1.7678-1.7684		
Bahrein dirar	2.0002-0.0086			Malaysia	2.7919-2.7949		
Brazil cruzeiro	307.05-307.30			Australia	1.3303-1.3304		
Cyprus pound	0.7876-0.7935			Canada	1.1422-1.1423		
Philippine marks	5.9327-5.9258			Sweden	6.8206-6.8193		
Swiss franc	2.0000-2.0000			Switzerland	1.7300-1.7301		
Hong Kong dollar	12.4960-12.4967			Denmark	8.6282-7.0677		
India rupee	41.403-42.423			France	1.6301-1.6302		
Kuwait dirh. KD	4.4685-4.4686			Netherlands	1.5785-1.5787		
Malaysia ringgit	4.4685-4.4686			Netherlands	1.5785-1.5787		
Malaysia dollar	4.4685-4.4686			Netherlands	1.5785-1.5787		
New Zealand dollar	2.8542-2.8510			Netherlands	1.5785-1.5787		
Saudi Arabia riyal	2.5494-2.5493			Netherlands	1.5785-1.5787		
Sri Lanka rupee	2.5494-2.5493			Netherlands	1.5785-1.5787		
S Africa rand (R)	5.2944-5.2943			Netherlands	1.5785-1.5787		
S Korea won	4.4685-4.4686			Netherlands	1.5785-1.5787		
U A E dirham	5.845-5.845			Netherlands	1.5785-1.5787		
Berlings Bank 079 *	0.4685-0.4686			Netherlands	1.5785-1.5787		
U A E dirham	5.845-5.845			Netherlands	1.5785-1.5787		
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COMMODITIES

NYR FOX		LONDON OIL REPORTS (CIS-LONG - London 5.00pm)	
BSSE	SUGAR (FOB)	The market shifted at way into the American holiday week with no sense of direction.	
152-33	9 Caneblows		
152-33	Aug - 227.0-25.5		
152-33	Oct - 194.5-26.8		
152-33	Nov - 155.2-24.0		
152-33	Dec - 155.2-24.0		
152-33	Jan - 185.2-24.0		
152-33	May - 187.0-25.0		
152-33	Aug - 200.0-25.0		
152-33	Oct - 200.0-25.0		
152-33	Nov - 148.0		
152-33	Dec - 148.0		
152-33	Jan - 148.0		
152-33	May - 148.0		
152-33	Aug - 148.0		
152-33	Oct - 148.0		
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152-33	Aug - 148.0		
152-33	Oct - 148.0		

Court of Appeal

Law Report July 4 1991

Court of Appeal

Recovering overpaid benefit

Page and Another v Chief Adjudication Officer
Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Woolf and Lord Justice Leggatt
[Judgment June 24]

Where a payment of social security benefit to which section 53(1) of the Social Security Act 1986 applied was made in consequence of a misrepresentation or failure to disclose a material fact, the Secretary of State for Social Security was entitled to recover the amount of the payment even if the misrepresentation or failure to disclose was innocent and not fraudulent.

The Court of Appeal held in dismissing appeals by the claimants, Iris Elsie Page and Sylvia Dorothy Davis, from the decision on June 29, 1990 by Mr Commissioner Skinner, QC, of appeals by Mrs Page from a decision of the Whittington House Western Social Security Appeal Tribunal on June 23, 1989, and by Mrs Davis from a decision

dated February 6, 1989 of the Oxford Social Security Appeal Tribunal.

In both cases, supplementary benefit was overpaid by reason of the failure by the claimants to disclose facts relating to their receipt of widow's pension and occupational pension respectively. Section 53(1) of the 1986 Act provides: "Where it is determined that, whether fraudulently or otherwise, any person has misrepresented, or failed to disclose, any material fact and in consequence of the misrepresentation or failure—(a) a payment has been made in respect of a benefit to which this section applies... the Secretary of State shall be entitled to recover the amount of any payment which he would not have made... but for the misrepresentation or failure to disclose."

Mr Michael Shrimpton for the claimants; Miss Genevra Caves, QC, for the adjudication officer.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON

said that it was not in doubt that the benefits in question were ones payable to persons of small means, without reference to contributions, and that the misrepresentations made by both claimants were wholly innocent and in no way fraudulent.

Mr Shrimpton's submission, which his Lordship would not attempt to traverse, was that section 53(1) could bear harshly, but the secretary of state had a discretion in the matter and their Lordships' sole concern was with the true construction of the subsection.

The case for the Department of Social Security was simply that, as a matter of language, "fraudulently or otherwise" meant "fraudulently or not".

Mr Shrimpton submitted that, in its effect on poor people, section 53 was to be regarded as tantamount to a penal provision.

He based his argument on various rules of construction, and in particular the *ejusdem*

generis rule, whereby, it was said, the words "or otherwise" were to be construed similarly to "fraudulently", so that section 53(1) only applied to misrepresentations or failures to disclose which were either fraudulent or affected by moral turpitude in some way.

His Lordship would gladly accept that argument if a choice were available between two possible constructions, a wider one and a narrower one.

There was no such choice. The words in subsection (1), in their context, were plain and unambiguous. The subsection clearly applied to any person who had obtained money to which he or she was not entitled, whether the misrepresentation or failure to disclose was fraudulent or innocent.

Lord Justice Woolf agreed and Lord Justice Leggatt delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Ms Susan James, Hillingdon; Solicitor, Department of Social Security.

Damaging effect of salmon poaching

Regina v Williams (Michael John)

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Jowitt
[Judgment June 18]

Salmon poaching had a real and damaging effect on the community at large.

The Court of Appeal so stated when giving judgment on an appeal by Michael John Williams, aged 36, of Tan-y-Bryn, Maesgirchen, Bangor against sentence including forfeiture of the boat, nets, engine and four salmon taken in the Menai Straits, otherwise than by means of an instrument entitled to be used for that purpose by virtue of a fishing licence in a place where fishing was regulated by a system of licensing, contrary to section 27 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975.

He, and a co-defendant, Brian Pritchard, aged 21, were convicted at Cemaes Island Crown Court (Mr Assistant Recorder P. J. Harrington and a jury) in September 1989. The appellant was sentenced to nine months imprisonment suspended for two years, fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £350 costs. The forfeiture order was made under paragraph 5 in Part II of

Schedule 4 to the 1975 Act, which provides: "The court... may order the forfeiture of... (a) on conviction on indictment, any vessel... used in or in connection with the commission of the offence..."

The co-defendant was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £1,300 costs.

Mr Nigel Benson, who did not appear before, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Mr Merion Lewis-Jones for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE SIMON BROWN, giving the judgment of the court, said that, before passing sentence, the assistant recorder, who had heard evidence from the appellant and his wife that she had bought the equipment, had concluded that the appellant himself was the owner of the equipment used, in view of the forfeiture provisions it was unnecessary for that conclusion to have been reached.

Of course, in circumstances where the ownership might have been outside the immediate family a court might well be inclined to pause long before ordering forfeiture when it might prejudice innocent third parties' rights.

What should be the court's

approach to such offences? Their Lordships had heard from counsel who read a note from the Welsh region of the National Rivers Authority.

It read in part that illegal netting for salmon created a great problem for the NRA around the northern coasts of Wales because of the quality of the rivers and their estuaries. The conviction of Michael John Williams did have some effect on poaching in the immediate area of the Menai Straits. There had not been any major poaching offence in that area since September 1989.

It seemed to their Lordships appropriate to pass sentences which were designed to, and, as this one did, have the effect of discouraging others from committing the particular type of offence.

It was easy to suggest that a bit of salmon poaching was not a matter of great consequence, easy but entirely wrong. Such illicit activity had a real and damaging effect on the community at large.

Many depended on controlling illicit fishing for their lawful livelihood. Those who had licences for sea fishing were damaged. So too were those who depended for their sport and

livelihood on the fish reaching the rivers.

Their Lordships had been informed of the kinds of sentences passed by the courts for such offences. Many of them involved immediate rather than suspended imprisonment and almost invariably forfeiture orders were made of equipment used for the commission of the offence.

The burden of the appellant's plea on appeal was that their Lordships should reverse the forfeiture order and allow the appellant to repossess his boat and fishing equipment which had been in forfeit for 24 years since it was seized.

That would be quite contrary to the pattern of sentencing now established in the criminal courts in such cases. It was generally appropriate to forfeit such equipment and their Lordships could see no good reason why such an order should not be made.

In the circumstances justice would be done if the sentence were varied only to the extent of lifting the order for payment of £350 costs.

Solicitors: Mr Christopher F. Martin, Cemaes Island.

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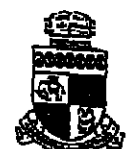
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Academic pioneer ahead of its time

As Warwick celebrates its first 25 years, John O'Leary looks for reasons why the controversial university became Margaret Thatcher's favourite



PETER TREVINO



Dr Brundin (left), who inherited a strong institution, and (above) final-year hopefuls scan the noticeboard where degree lists are posted



JOEL CHANT/NEWTEAM

academics from universities that are running down their departments, and is finding no lack of student demand, despite the decline of Latin in schools.

"I have no marginal departments because from the start it was ensured that none would exist," Dr Brundin says. "The aim has always been not to have anything but first-rate departments. I am sure this is the aim at every university, but Warwick has been more successful than most."

The proof of that came first with the university's ranking as Britain's fifth for research, and then last year with the award of the Carl Bertelsmann Prize for research, teaching and institutional management, beating 60 other European universities for the title. The prize is given in a different field of social, political or commercial activity every two years, and Warwick was praised by the judges as "a model European university".

That is exactly how Warwick likes to think of itself, and the university showed its commitment by using the prize of £55,000 to establish scholarships for students from Eastern Europe.

Eleven departments participated in student exchanges with 17 European universities last year under the European Community's Erasmus scheme, and the university intends to expand activities further on the Continent. The university has also been one of the leaders in securing research contracts from the Community, last year's showing a 30 per cent increase and nearing £1 million.

Even now, there is a touch of envy in the label attached to Warwick of "Margaret Thatcher's favourite university". The emphasis on short courses for the business world and the success of the science park have shown a hard-headed attitude to financial matters as much as an awareness of the region's needs, but there is also more continuing education for the local community than most universities offer and a close relationship with the university's neighbouring colleges.

Dr Brundin insists that commercial links have never prevailed over academic interests. "The test we apply to any outside project is whether it will enhance rather than distort academic activity. If it won't, we don't do it." He makes no apology for winning plaudits from ministers. "We showed the government how a good university can operate, rather than scampering around following somebody else's lead," he says.



Professor Mallett enterprises

New era of study in East

PROFESSOR Michael Mallett, the director of the European Humanities Research Centre, believes a new field of enterprise for his unit is emerging as radical changes are made in Eastern Europe and countries such as Albania, Bulgaria and Romania become more accessible to Western academics.

The unit, one of more than 30 research centres and institutions at the university, was formed several years ago, when universities such as Warwick were under intense pressure to find new sources of income and there were fears that arts departments would lose out financially to those that appeared to have greater money-raising potential (Craig Seton writes).

In fact, the humanities centre this year has won an award from the Leverhulme Trust, worth about £70,000, for a research project with the department of history to study 15th century Italian political exiles, one of Professor Mallett's favourite subjects.

The centre also has a contract with Macmillan for the publication of a series of volumes on European humanities, and has a permanent base in Venice for students of history and the history of art.

The centre has held conferences on Albania and Poland and this year it will stage one on Romanian history and culture. Professor Mallett wants at least one a year with an Eastern European theme.

Foreign faces fit into the campus

As the University of Warwick was awarded the 1990 Carl Bertelsmann prize, Dr Clark Brundin, the vice-chancellor, announced that the money would be used to establish postgraduate scholarships for students from newly democratised countries in Eastern Europe.

The chosen activity for the prize from the German Bertelsmann Foundation in 1990 was higher education in Europe, and Warwick, one of 60 European universities seeking the award, was honoured for its "exemplary combination of academic excellence and enterprise".

Academics at Warwick saw the award as an acknowledgement of its growing status as a

leading European university, and its keen efforts to forge new and innovative international links.

The £55,000 prize, matched by finance from the Foreign Office and the Open Society, will mean that from October, 15 outstanding students from Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania and Hungary will arrive on the Warwick campus to undertake research or master's degrees in subjects ranging from politics and international studies to computer science. The university had received 2,300 enquiries and 1,000 applications for the places from Eastern Europe.

Warwick's international efforts have gathered pace in recent years. The university says

the fact that 10 per cent of the campus population comes from 90 countries is testimony to its world reputation. Many more are involved in distance learning schemes, and foreign students, who will never set foot on the campus, are gaining qualifications.

Established and new international links are particularly significant in Professor Kumar Bhattacharya's manufacturing group, whose activities extend to countries of the Pacific Rim, through the university's business school and its distance learning Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree, and through the university's science park.

CRAIG SETON

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Enterprise takes the place of rebellion

Undergraduates at Warwick who wanted to show their opposition to the government's student loans scheme went to the campus library and held, not an occupation, but a "work-in".

Their constructive form of demonstration was an illustration of the way things have changed since the days of persistent unrest at British universities, including Warwick, during the Sixties and Seventies. Undergraduates still protest there, but these days the students' union is less likely to be involved unless the issue affects the university or its population. Two years ago, for example, students demonstrated over a crackdown on parking on the campus.

The students' union on a typical campus was once regarded as a haven for left-wing protesters. At Warwick, the union, with about 7,000 members, is a hive of constructive industry. It has a turnover of £4 million a year from a variety of business interests, including a travel agency, a vegetarian restaurant and a dial-a-pizza service. The union is involved in more than 200 clubs and societies, runs its own newspaper and radio station and employs 120 staff.

Ian Bradley, 22, the union's full-time president, was elected on a "no politics" ticket. He is serving his term during a sabbatical year after gaining a mathematics degree.

Many reasons can be advanced to explain why students in the early Nineties are less inclined to engage



Craig Seton finds the students'

union now runs business ventures

in campus politics or protests than those of two decades ago. Undoubtedly, 12 years of Conservative government, a more competitive society and an awareness of the need for good qualifications have played their part, especially when the graduate employment market is depressed. Most Warwick students seek careers in the professions and commerce, followed by industry, but the recession is expected to take its toll of those seeking employment after graduation.

Mr Bradley does not believe politics has no place on campus, but he is convinced there are now fewer causes of friction between the 6,000 undergraduates and the university authorities.

He says: "At the moment relations between the students' union and the university are at a high. We staged a work-in rather than an occupation at the library because the university agreed with us that the loan scheme was not appropriate. The university agrees that higher education is underfunded. Our opinions are also taken much more note of and the university

knows we are not trying to cause trouble. There is no need for confrontation."

He offered a non-political ticket in the union elections because he wanted to devote his time to dealing with the university and looking after student affairs and national issues involving students. Others had been elected as union officers on political tickets.

He says the students are not apathetic, and voluntary work undertaken by undergraduates in the local community, helping the elderly, disabled and disadvantaged, confirms that their idealism is alive. There are still disagreements over politics, debates are organised, campaigns are mounted over issues such as racism and the poll tax and high passions are generated over current affairs, most recently over the Gulf war. For the union, however, there are more domestic issues on which to take a lead, such as welfare services, access for the disabled and late-night transport.

The desire of students to travel the world during vacations, or, a year after taking degrees, remains strong.

Warwick has the benefit of annual cash awards from the Lord Rotes Memorial Fund for enterprising travel projects. This year more than £10,000 has been donated towards the cost of student travel schemes ranging from "Frontier: Tanzania" to "A Study of the Festas of the Sierra Indians in Ecuador".

Mr Bradley says many companies considering a job application from a



Students at peace: no need for confrontation, Ian Bradley says

graduate welcome signs of initiative displayed by worldwide travel. There is a more formal sponsorship scheme for students at the university's adjacent science park, where companies become hosts during vacations to undergraduates undertaking specific work projects of commercial value to the employer. Before completing their work, students submit a management report that could be used later as the basis for decision-taking by the company.

One of the acknowledged advantages of Warwick is the campus-based arts centre, which is also a boon to the community. The centre has become a nationally known venue, with a concert hall and theatre, a cinema, an art gallery and conference facilities. Last year it attracted more than 250,000 visitors. It also gives students part-time jobs as bar staff and ushers and is a popular meeting place and venue for their own events.

Educating the community

GROWING provision for continuing education at Warwick is the means by which the university forms a close bond with its local community (Craig Seton writes).

Chris Duke, the professor of continuing education, has the task of creating ever greater access to an extensive range of open studies programmes that will make degree courses more readily available to people in the local authority areas covering Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire.

Professor Duke says that between 11,000 and 12,000 people now participate in Warwick's continuing education courses in a part of the West Midlands that has always had a small number of higher education students.

In September the first students from the locality will embark on an innovative "2 plus 2" project, under which they will take four-year degree courses, spending two years at one of the local colleges, then two years at the university. Professor Duke expects there will be a demand and an enormous potential for expansion of the scheme, especially

if local companies become involved in putting forward candidates. The scheme is intended particularly for young adults who otherwise would not be able to go away to university.

Professor Julian Gardner, a pro-vice-chancellor, says it is important to strengthen links with the community. He says: "This is a university that in a sense is a civic university. In many areas, universities are stuck out in the fields, but we are right in the centre of the industrial heartland."

The department of continuing education has also established a base in the inner city Hillfields area of Coventry, near the university campus, for local people who would otherwise not be expected to seek higher education. The university hopes the centre will encourage them to take up the 2 plus 2 degrees.

The work of the continuing education department has been recognised with grants from the Universities Funding Council. Professor Duke says: "Continuing education permeates everything we do in the university."

Fight for equality

THERE is a large capacity for new research in the study of ethnic relations, an area in which the university has become a leading specialist.

The Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, established in 1984, is funded principally by the Economic and Social Research Council (Craig Seton writes). Its work in advanced teaching and study of race and ethnic issues, at home and abroad, has the themes of anti-racism and equality at its core.

The centre studies the state of multi-cultural communities in Britain, examines key issues of employment, education, voting, welfare and economics, and gathers information about the spread and fortunes of migrant populations, especially in Britain and in Western Europe, where there are an estimated 15 million people of migrant origin.

Under the executive director, Professor Muhammad Anwar, the centre offers a

multi-disciplinary MA and postgraduate diploma in race and ethnic studies. It has become the main source in Britain of data derived from new research into ethnic and race issues. Although much of the work is about ethnic communities at home, the centre conducts comparative studies involving countries such as the United States, examines the plight of refugees and, increasingly, is turning its attention to the state of minorities in Europe.

Professor Anwar says the centre, with its 26 staff, now has the largest group of researchers in the Western world working on data about ethnic affairs.

"We would like our research to be used for the purpose of bringing about change in our society," he says. "It could lead to policies to tackle racism and discrimination and help with the integration of ethnic minorities in society."

The loneliness of the long-distance scholar

Warwick university students who have the longest courses but see the least of the university are those studying by distance-learning.

This month I shall receive a master's degree in business administration (MBA) at a graduation ceremony in Cov-

entry cathedral. In four years of study, I have been to the university, for summer schools and exams, just seven times.

The pioneers of this method of education at the campus-based universities, Warwick Business School has 2,000 students taking distance-

learning MBAs, representing about 20 per cent of the student body and an annual turnover of more than £2 million.

Judging by my experience of Warwick, other institutions, such as Oxford and Cambridge, which are jumping on the distance-learning band-

wagon, will have many mistakes to make before they get it right. The student learning from a distance suffers a variety of disadvantages.

My "study" was the Brighton to London train. Talking to a tutor, getting the right book, or trying to solve a problem always involved an

expedition that required planning and could end in disappointment and frustration.

Warwick is geared to the traditional, three-term academic cycle, but for the student working from home, in a full-time job and with a family, there is no half-term, no summer vacation, and no part in the normal social life of a university.

In my first year I tried to get a students' union card and was met with a baffled and suspicious response from a union official, who said they were issued only "at the beginning of the academic year".

While attending the annual, week-long summer school, I wanted to study in the library in the evenings. "We open during the day only in the summer when the students are not here," an official told me. The library hours problem has been solved and Warwick is improving, thanks partly to pressure from the university's own distance-learning MBA office.

With the increasing awareness of the financial and academic importance of open learning, by the time Warwick university celebrates its golden jubilee nobody on a distance-learning course should have to protest: "But I am a student, too."

TOM MURPHY

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Having won his maiden in good style by three lengths at Leicester in May, Geoffrey Wigg's high top colt was sent off fourth favourite at 8-1 for the 19-runner King George V Stakes at the royal meeting.

Held up in the early stages, Torchon made good headway from two out under Gary Carter before striding clear in the final furlong to beat Latour by three lengths.

Collins Avenue, Peking Opera and Jafar met in the King Edward VII Stakes at Royal Ascot and occupied the last three places behind Saddlers' Hall. Although Collins Avenue was beaten 21 lengths by the winner, there seems no

reason why he should not confirm the Ascot form with the other pair and give Torchon most to do.

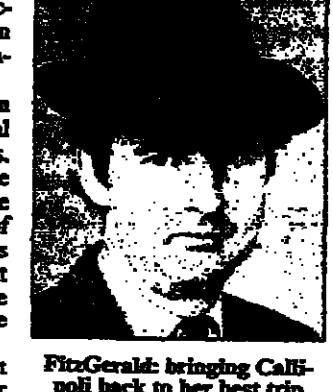
Now that he has regained the winning thread, Chaplins Club is fabled to follow up Monday's 3-1 Pontefract success and defy a 7lb penalty in the George Washington Handicap.

At Yarmouth, Desert Sun can finally open his seasonal account in the Conway Stakes. Although he has failed to live up to early expectations, there is little wrong with the form of his Jersey Stakes third in that event, landed a group two race at the Curragh in some style on Sunday.

Henry Cecil and Pat Eddery, Desert Sun's trainer

and jockey, can initiate a double in the Ferrier Maiden Stakes with Gaea Solo, who showed promise when sixth at the course in September and has been shaping well at home in recent weeks.

For the day's best bet,



FitzGerald: bringing Calipoli back to her best trip

though, Calipoli is taken to gain her first success of the season in the J Medler Lid Handicap.

Lord John FitzGerald's filly gained the last of her three 1990 wins in a valuable Newmarket handicap in October and shaped as though returning to her best when second to Touch Above over ten furlongs at Beverley in May.

Calipoli found Ripon's extended one-and-a-half miles beyond her when sixth to Secret Society on her latest start but, back to her best trip today, she has strong claims.

At Catterick, Red Rascal (3.00) and Eleven Lights (4.00) are both fancied to defy penalties for their victories last week while Brighton course specialist Sue Sweeney (7.30) should be noted on his first run at the Sussex track this season.

High Court defeat for Aga Khan

THE Aga Khan yesterday failed in the High Court to overturn the Jockey Club's decision disqualifying his 1989 Oaks winner Alysha after the banned substance cantharidin was found in the filly's urine.

Lord Justice Woolf, sitting with Mr Justice Leonard, said two earlier court cases had made it clear that no decisions of racing's ruling body were open to challenge in judicial review proceedings.

However, he indicated that there was disagreement over the situation and "clearly the problem is not going to go away".

"The only service I consider this court can provide in this case is now to draw the line so far as the Jockey Club is concerned and make it clear beyond peradventure that there is no relief which this court can provide on application for judicial review until the law is either changed by a higher court or by statutory intervention."

Matthew McCloy, solicitor for the Aga Khan, said that an appeal to the Court of Appeal would now be considered.

CATTERICK BRIDGE

MANDARIN
2.30 Rio Truck. 3.00 Red Rascal. 3.30 Manuf. 4.00 Eleven Lights. 4.30 Singing Reply. 5.00 Flying Promise.
THUNDERER
2.30 Syle Lane. 3.00 The Devil's Music. 3.30 Moonlight Image. 4.00 Postage Stamp. 4.30 Singing Reply. 5.00 Starchy Cove. Michael Seely. 4.00 Postage Stamp. 4.30 Inquendo. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.30 Thursday.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.30 SILVER BRUSH SELLING STAKES

(2-Y-O: £2,500; 11 runners)
1. P. MILITARY EXPERT (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
2. P. PALACE (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
3. P. TRINITY (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
4. P. CASUALTY (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
5. P. HAVY LASS (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
6. P. JOSS THE DEALER (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
7. P. LADY RAINFALL (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
8. P. RICHIE (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
9. P. SWANSEA (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
10. P. SUE LANE (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
11. P. SUE LANE (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5

3.00 RAMBLING ROSE HANDICAP

(2-Y-O: £1,750; 17 runners)
1. 0001 WIGGIE STAR (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
2. 0002 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
3. 0003 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
4. 0004 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
5. 0005 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
6. 0006 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
7. 0007 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
8. 0008 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
9. 0009 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
10. 0010 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
11. 0011 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
12. 0012 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
13. 0013 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
14. 0014 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
15. 0015 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
16. 0016 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5
17. 0017 THOMPSON (J. H. Wilson) 5-11. W. Ryan 5

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: G. Sweeney, 20 winners from 74 runners, 42.9%
JOCKEYS: A. G. Sweeney, 7 winners from 31 rides, 22.9%
H. Sweeney, 11 winners from 52 rides, 21.2%
W. Ryan, 11 winners from 52 rides, 21.2%
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C. Sweeney, 11 winners from 52 rides, 21.2%
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A. Sweeney, 11 winners from 52 rides, 21.2%
Z. Sweeney, 11 winners from 52 rides, 21.2

World champion makes light of British challenge

His team-mate, Stuart Lester, will turn professional next month when

Be: Belgium; bi: Brazil; Br:
 Brn: Brn; Can: Canada; Co: Costa Rica; Cz:
 Czechoslovakia; De: Denmark; Ec: Ec-
 do: Ecu; El: Republic of Ireland; Fi: Finland;
 Fr: France; Gr: Germany; GB: Great
 n. Br; Greece; HK: Hong Kong; Hun:
 Hungary; Ind: Indonesia; Is: Israel; It: Italy;
 Jpn: Japan; K: Korea; S Kor: South Korea; Luc:
 Luxembourg; Mex: Mexico; Mon: Monaco;
 NZ: New Zealand; Neth: The Netherlands;
 Nor: Norway; Pak: Pakistan; Par: Paraguay;
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Capriati stakes claim for the new generation as she becomes youngest Wimbledon semi-finalist by toppling a great champion

Navratilova left to regret the passing of time

By ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

MARTINA Navratilova went to the well and found it dry. A set down, but a break up overnight, the nine-times champion dipped into the reserves of her experience once too often yesterday and emerged only with a series of half-pace serves, fluffed volleys and one final undignified double fault.

She was beaten 6-4, 7-5 by Jennifer Capriati, who had barely taken her first steps when Navratilova's name was last missing from the Wimbledon semi-finals. The No. 9 seed now has to beat Gabriela Sabatini in today's semi-final, which on present form is not beyond the bounds of possibility, to threaten the record of Lottie Dod. At 15 years 96 days old, Capriati is already the youngest Wimbledon semi-finalist. Dod won the first of her five titles at 15 years 285 days in 1887.

Though nobody realised it at the time, Navratilova had been living on her resolve and reputation from the opening match of the championships, but neither provided protection against Capriati's ferocious service returns or the innocence of youth. When it came to the point of no return, it was the 34-year-old champion, in her 113th singles match at Wimbledon, not Capriati, playing her ninth, who succumbed to the tension.

On match point, as Capriati came to within a few feet of

the service line to attack the second service, Navratilova's notoriously fragile nerve snapped. She served a double fault, quite possibly her last shot at Wimbledon 18 years after her first against Christine James in 1973. "I'm not hanging it up right now, but I don't know how much heart I have left," she said.

Only in the final game when the thought of beating the woman she calls simply the "legs" or the "princess", of beating one of the top players for the first time in her precocious life did fear crowd in. "I was getting the chills," Capriati said. "I couldn't believe it. Before that, I had no nerves. There was no pressure on me. She had everything to lose."

Defeat leaves Navratilova one title short of equalling Chris Evert's record of 157 career titles. The prospect of beating that might keep the legs going for another few months because on the form she showed at Eastbourne rather than the past ten days at Wimbledon she is still too good for most on her favourite surface. But, like McEnroe, the day before, she came face to face with the cold fact that

her days of glory at Wimbledon may be over. "I hope the gods will be with me so I can come back next year," she said.

This time, though, there is no Chris Evert to help her along the road. Just the new Chris Evert, as Capriati has been unfairly labelled, waiting to reinforce the generation gap. "She hits the ball harder than Chris," Navratilova said. "She's stronger and bigger and she gets five points off her serve, which Chris never got."

Navratilova had felt the chill wind well before rain ended play on Tuesday, but any hopes that it might have blown out overnight ended with the first service, which was rammed back past her by Capriati.

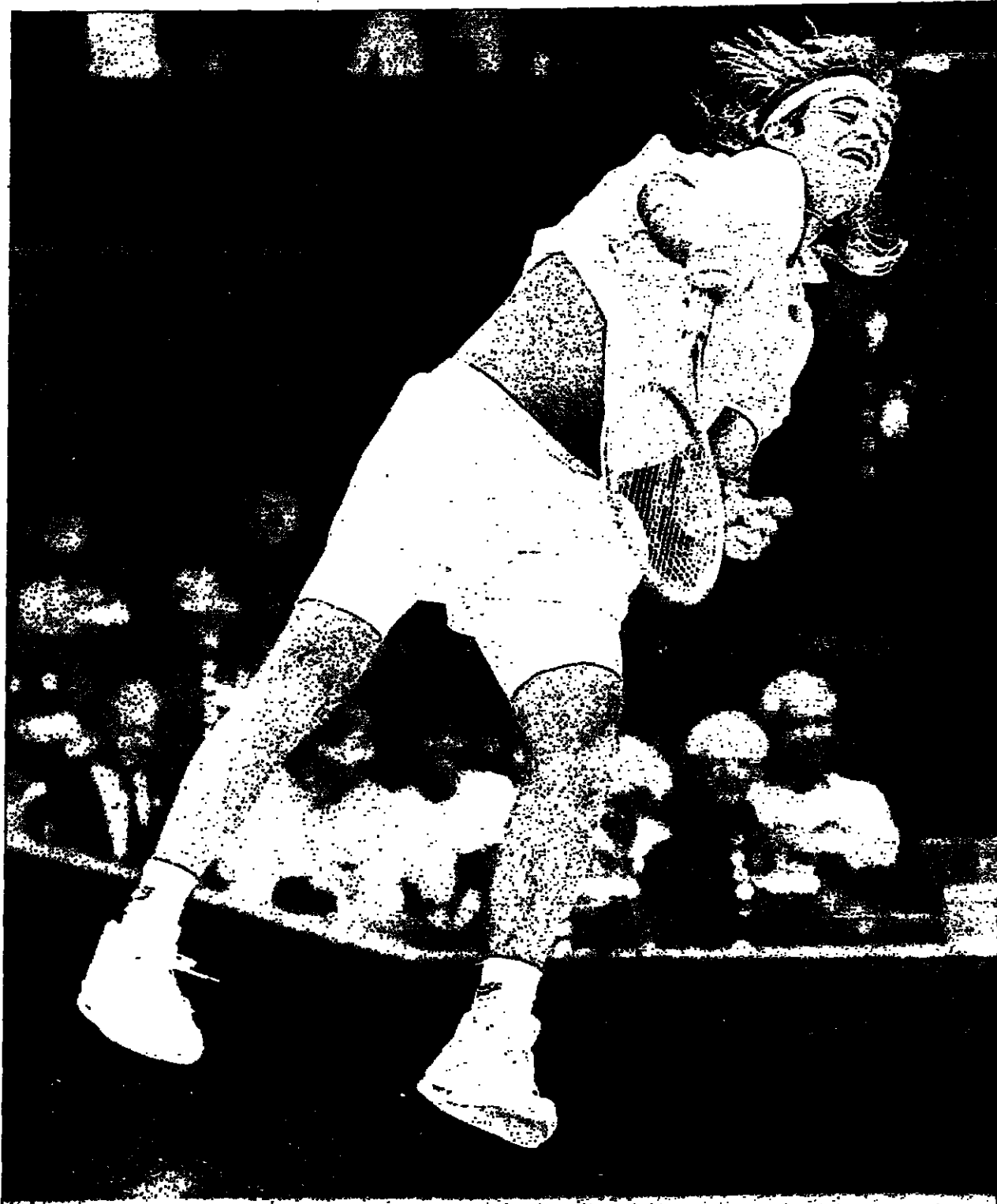
If the champion had converted one of the three break points for a 5-2 lead in the next game, the story might have been different. But Capriati, her clothes flapping like a ship in full sail, produced three good first services and an ace to avert the danger and levelled to 4-4 in the very next game.

A lob, which hung in the air as if unable to decide between the past and the future, chose the latter and landed neatly inside the baseline, closing one more avenue as Capriati saved a break point and held to 6-5. She then missed two match points "before the double fault." "She had to move forward to take the ball on the first bounce," Navratilova said.

Capriati's career, all of 18 months old, now comes round in a circle. She was beaten in the final of her first tournament by Gabriela Sabatini, who yesterday completed a 6-2, 6-1 win over Laura Gildemeister to reach her third Wimbledon semi-final. The Argentinean is just starting to play well and is certainly a better player than a year ago. "I don't think Gabriela will give her as many targets as I did," Navratilova said.

Contrary to her billing as a born again serve-and-volleyer, Sabatini has not stormed the net so far and, if she is wise, she will bide her time against Capriati as well. Experience and her all-court ability might be enough to see her through against either Steffi Graf or Mary Joe Fernandez.

Graf will be considerably heartened by Navratilova's departure and has an unblemished record against the American, who is playing in her first Wimbledon semi-final. Neither has dropped a set in reaching the semi-finals, but the German's heavier service and greater experience on grass should see her through to her fourth final.



Flight of fancy: Agassi takes off on the way to his centre court success against the Dutchman, Eltingh

The experience grows on Agassi

ANDRE Agassi has changed his tune. Only a couple of years back, aged 18 at the French championships, he was saying with that high-handed unconcern of youth that he did not need to play at Wimbledon. Now he is finding it a rare, and pleasing, experience; and the crowd is taking to him. All are benefiting.

Against expectation, including his own, Agassi is in the quarter-finals, yesterday defeating Jacco Eltingh, of the Netherlands, eight months his junior, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. Whether Agassi can now handle the powerful grass-court game of David Wheaton, the American conqueror of Lendl on Monday, is another matter. I would doubt it. Agassi himself is unsure. "It will boil down," he said, "to how well he serves and I return."

Yesterday Agassi and Eltingh — the No. 5 of the Netherlands, who have five players in the top 110 to the

servicing his hirsute torso on every overhead shot, Agassi looked more like part of the Uncle Tom Cobley squad at harvest time. His demeanour, none the less, is engaging, for all the grunting; the crowd, which included the Princess of Wales, applauded warmly. Yet all Agassi's breath may be expelled from him against Wheaton.

"My volleying needs to improve," Agassi said, reflecting on the moderate success of his ventures to the net. These often gave Eltingh a doorway to go past him; Agassi's dominance came from punching his ground strokes.

The set he lost owed something to his impatience, the one quality Eltingh was not lacking. Each point was invested by the Dutchman with an emotional intensity that would have become unbearable were he winning, and instead was merely rather sad. Not expecting him to reach the last 16, and short of

money, his parents had returned home last week. At set-all Agassi revised his policy: stay back, and belt it two inches above the net. It worked. He drilled the passing shots down the flanks to break for 3-1, missed a set point for 6-2, but then hit two sizzling services for 6-3. Relatively short, at 5ft 11in, for power on grass, he is developing a more penetrating serve.

Shaving the sidelines brought him the fifth game break in the fourth set, and he was at his peak when serving for 5-3. "I'm trying to add more dimensions to my game," Agassi said reflectively, almost repentant in his new-found admiration for everything that Wimbledon is. "It's an investment (being here) ... so exciting to be doing so well ... I feel like a qualifier having the time of his life." His focus, he said, prevented much of a view of Princess Diana. He will need all of it next round.

Verbal abuse brings top fine

By ANDREW LONGMORE

AGE has done nothing to ease John McEnroe's stormy relationship with Wimbledon down the years. Yesterday, the three-times champion was fined \$10,000 (£6,250) for verbal abuse during the third set of his fourth-round match against Stefan Edberg, which, even by his standards, was colourful in the extreme.

The fine is the maximum that could be levied under the regulations of the grand slam tournaments and \$3,500 more than the American was fined when he was deflated from the Australian Open championship in January 1990.

If the disciplinary rules had not been changed at the end of last year, the fine would also have led to automatic disqualification from the next grand slam, which is the US Open at the end of August. In 1990, any player who incurred fines of \$7,500 over the year was banned from the next grand slam. McEnroe was \$1,000 or one swear word short after the Australian Open, but, under the new regulations, fines are not carried over.

McEnroe must have thought he had got away with his abuse, aimed at a linesman who had not called an ace by Edberg in the eighth game, but an ITN camera picked up the volley and it was broadcast, with four bleeps instead of expletives, on the News at Ten on Tuesday night.

According to a statement issued by the grand prix supervisors yesterday, the linesman made no official complaint because he was too "intimidated", but the tournament referee, Alan Mills, was made aware of the violation through the television clips.

The supervisors consulted the officials as well before imposing the fine, which is believed to be the biggest McEnroe has ever faced at Wimbledon, though not the biggest of his career.

Four years ago, he was fined \$17,500 and banned for two months for "aggravated behaviour" at the US Open and, in a less lenient interpretation of his conduct on Tuesday, he could have been subject to a fine of \$250,000 and banned from the US Open also for "aggravated behaviour".

In 1981, McEnroe was fined \$10,000 at Wimbledon, but had his fine reduced on appeal by the ATP, and he has the right of appeal against this fine.

It was on that occasion that he coined the phrases "piss of the world" and "you cannot be serious". He went on to beat Bjorn Borg in a four-set final, but then boycotted the champions dinner (the fourth misdemeanour for which he was fined).

WOMEN'S SEMI-FINAL FORM GUIDE

Steffi Graf v Mary-Joe Fernandez

Tournament	Surface	Rnd	Winner	Score
1986 US of Florida	Hard	R16	Graf	6-0, 6-1
1986 US Clay Courts	Clay	R32	Graf	6-2, 6-1
1986 Wimbledon	Grass	R16	Graf	6-2, 6-4
1986 Nolla Mestara	Clay	R2	Graf	6-3, 6-4
1986 Australian Open	Hard	F	Graf	6-3, 6-4

Gabriela Sabatini v Jennifer Capriati

Tournament	Surface	Rnd	Winner	Score
1989 US of Florida	Hard	F	Sabatini	6-4, 7-6
1989 Italian Open	Clay	O	Sabatini	6-2, 7-6
1989 Wimbledon	Grass	O	Sabatini	3-6, 6-1, 6-4
1989 US of Florida	Hard	O	Sabatini	7-6, 6-2
1989 Italian Open	Clay	O	Sabatini	6-3, 6-4

Source: Virginia Slims Statistical System

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Blazers	225	175
Lightweight Blouson	129	64
Cotton Shirts	56	28
Cotton Polo Shirts	26	19
Cashmere Scarves	66	33

Examples for Women

	Original Price	Sale Price
Classic Raincoats	255	169
Trench Coats	335	255
Suits	405	195
Jackets	250	175
Pure Wool Skirts	149	95
Cotton Shirts	59	39
Fashion Knitwear	69	34
Cotton Polo Shirts	29	19

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Over-worked Becker finds going tough

BORIS Becker reached the quarter-finals for the sixth time in seven years with a four-set victory over Christian Bergstrom yesterday, but it was not one of his happier days (Andrew Longmore writes). He was given a code violation for racket abuse in the middle of the second set, was critical of the officials for making him play three days in a row and then found that he

had been demoted to court one again. That, Becker thought, was no way to treat a three-times champion.

"It is bad I have to play every day. It was a big mistake playing the women's matches yesterday instead of all the matches in the morning when the sun was out," he said. Becker will have a rest day on Saturday, provided the weather stays good, but today he

has to play Guy Forget, which is no formality.

Bergstrom should not have been much of a match for Becker on grass and would not have been had not Becker gone into one of his mid-match seizures. Becker was a set up before the Swede began to get his return working. He had just broken back to 3-3 when Becker snapped.

At 3-4, 15-40 in the second

set, Becker grabbed his racket in both hands, and after a lengthy chastisement hurried it to the ground. He did not regain his equilibrium until he had lost the tie-break 7-4.

When he settled back into his rhythm and attacked the net, he won the next two sets.

Forget finished off Tim Mayotte with little difficulty to reach his first Wimbledon quarter-final, along with

another Frenchman, Thierry Champion.

The match between Michel Schapery and Brenda Schultz and Tom Nijssen and Andrea Temesvari created two records yesterday. The deciding game, which Schapery and Schultz won 29-27, was the second-longest in Wimbledon history. At 77 games, the match was also the longest mixed doubles match.



Champion: five-set win

Atherton confident of proving fitness

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Atherton, the Lancashire opening batsman, emerged from a net session at Trent Bridge yesterday with no serious reaction from his injured stomach muscle. He is confident of being fit for the third Cornhill Test match against West Indies, which starts today.

"If I feel as good tomorrow as I do today, I will play," he said yesterday. It is a verdict that seems likely to keep Hugh Morris, of Glamorgan, waiting for his Test debut.

Graham Gooch, the captain, spoke yesterday of the advantages to be gained from having a left-hander, like Morris, in the leading order. But he balanced his remarks by say-

ing: "I hope Michael is fit. He is a very fine batsman and we are not over-reacting to his low scores in this series."

With 14 players to choose from, Gooch has unusual options as England try to protect or improve their 1-0 lead. A first cap seems a near certainty for Richard Illingworth, of Worcestershire slow bowler. "This pitch has more chance of turning than the previous two and we are much more likely to play the spinner," Gooch said.

The final place will be a choice between Devon Malcolm and David Lawrence, two fast bowlers.

England optimistic, page 38

Bowen reaches an Everest summit

By JENNY MACARTHUR

DAVID Bowen and his eight-year-old mare, Dun Tammy, defeated several of the country's leading show jumpers, including the national champion, Michael Whitaker, on Henderson My Messieur, to win the Everest championship at the Royal Show at Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, yesterday.

Marie Edgar, the young riders' European champion, kept the sponsors' name to the fore when she and Everest Rapiet finished a close second. Johnny Harris and his Mill, winners at the Royal International last month, were a more distant third.

Bowen, a tough, humorous Lancastrian, could not have been more delighted with his £1,125 win. He bought Dun

Tammy, by Hunter's Fort, as a four-year-old from Ireland and, just months later, won the regional novice final.

He has nurtured the mare slowly this year. She has competed at the Hamburg show in Germany, where she was "a bit green", and at Choudfontaine, where they were second on the last day. "I should have won it," Bowen said yesterday, "but I held her back too much at the last fence."

He was careful not to repeat his mistake yesterday. Six horses reached the jump-off — though Britain's leading three, Michael Whitaker, Nick Skelton, on Apollo, and John Whitaker, on Grannusch, were not among them. Skelton and John Whitaker both had eight faults in the first round. Michael and Henderson My

Messieur, who today defend their national title, hit the middle of the combination.

Harris produced the first clear round in the jump-offs but was rapidly overtaken by Edgar on Everest Rapiet. They jumped 68 and stylishly round the seven-fence course in what looked to be the winning time of 39.34sec.

Bowen decided he had "to go for it" and did just that. He has had problems in the past getting the mare to shorten her stride, but yesterday his patient training was rewarded. She jumped athletically and faultlessly in 39.05sec to secure her biggest win to date.

Edgar now has her sights set on today's national championships, in which she was runner-up last year. Bowen will not be among the opposition. He flew to Greece

last night to join Malcolm Pyrah and Andrew Saywell at the Athens show.

The British Show Jumping Association selectors, who had set yesterday as the day for announcing the team for the European championships, were unable to reach a decision. Douglas Bunn, the chairman of the panel, said the decision is being deferred to Monday so that they can assess performances at the Luxembourg show this weekend.

RESULTS: Everest championship: 1, Dun Tammy (D. Bowen), 0 in 39.05sec; 2, Everest Rapiet (M. Edgar), 0 in 39.34; 3, Henderson My Messieur (J. Harris), 0 in 42.85. Champion working hunter: 1, Henderson My Messieur (J. Harris), 0 in 39.05; 2, Henderson My Messieur (J. Harris), 0 in 39.05; 3, Henderson My Messieur (J. Harris), 0 in 39.05.
